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The Publisher, Staff &
Editors

Florida Lotto - LottoMan v1.35
Results: 7/21/96: 3 of 6 numbers, no matches

From the Editor's Desk...

On the political scene. Dole is busy "wooing & romancing" Hollywood but a scant six months ago he was very busy crucifying Tinsel Town. over the types of movies they were producing. Its amazing what a little campaign money can accomplish. Its sad that they still lock up legit prostitutes. Perhaps the Prostitute Laws should be expanded to campaigning politicians. Dole has yet to name a running mate. I hope he does name Connie Mack R-FL, that's a certain boat anchor for Dole.

On the computing front there is good news for the serious minded computerists. Windows NT 4.0 and NT Server 4.0 went retail this past week. This is the muscle twins of the computing world. NT is, by far, the most secure and sure footed of MS offerings for the business community. Just imagine what its going to be like when the great meeting takes place in Cairo.

We're just getting bits and pieces of a big shakeup at CompuServe. NISA - HMI it's all gone. Stay tuned we'll have all the particulars next week. Additionally, there's a bit of internal cattiness and silly censorship having between two forums. Its seems that some folks get a title added to their name and it goes straight to their heads. Must be an "Old World Trait" or, so it would seem. Unbelievably, the "informed" new leaders at CIS feel WOW

is a success and the familiar CIS is "on the wane". Additionally, the "new deal" for CIS has the idea that instead of an account exec.. an "editor" overseeing the "content" of each forum. For the record this reporter feels all WOW can offer at this time is "eye candy and a "Peter Pan & Mary Poppins like atmosphere". This is a success??? Its a joke and a bad one at that. If they stay on their present course.. CompuServe as we all know it will be no more by year's end. Obviously, those in charge there are more interested in catering to the teen and young adult segment. Think its a bit premature?? Ask around about how many substantial CIS contract holders are already shopping around. Stay tuned. This one is going to get interesting.

Also for next week. expect a report on building a powerhouse computer on a budget. From the first turn of the screwdriver to the flipping of the switch, we'll take you on a step by step journey. Hopefully, we'll be able to steer a few good folks away from the gouge artists out there by giving some good information and sources.

Ralph...

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<http://www.streport.com>

STReport is now ready to offer much more in the way of serving the Networks, Online Services and Internet's vast, fast growing site list and userbase. We now have our very own WEB/NewsGroup/FTP Site and although its in its early stages of construction, do stop by and have a look see. Since We've received numerous requests to receive STReport from a wide variety of Internet addressees, we were compelled to put together an Internet distribution mailing list for those who wished to receive STReport on a regular basis, the file is ZIPPED, then UUENCODED. Unfortunately, we've also received a number of opinions that the UUENCODING was a real pain to deal with. So, as of October 01,1995, you'll be able to download STReport directly from our very own SERVER & WEB Site. While there, be sure to join our STR list.

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LATE BREAKING INDUSTRY-WIDE NEWS

Weekly Happenings in the Computer World

Compiled by: Dana P. Jacobson

Lawmakers Weigh Encryption

A U.S. Senate panel considering legislation to ease U.S. restrictions on the export of encryption software will hear testimony from FBI Director Louis Freeh. As noted earlier, Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Montana, has introduced legislation that would ease limits on export of data-scrambling technology. Earlier, a Commerce subcommittee heard extensive testimony from the computer industry, which argues that current U.S. policy threatens its status as a global technology leader.

Now the panel will hear from Freeh as well as William Reinsch, undersecretary of the Commerce Department's Bureau of Export Administration, and William Crowell, deputy director of the National Security Agency. Anticipating tomorrow's testimony, the Dow Jones news service quotes a statement from Burns as saying, "This is the first time the administration has been asked to defend its outdated encryption policies in front of the Senate. This hearing could play a major role in determining the fate of the Pro-Code bill."

DJ notes Pro-Code refers to the title of the legislation, the "Promotion of Commerce Online in the Digital Era Act of 1996." Says the wire service, "Supporters of the bill include GOP presidential hopeful Robert Dole; Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Larry Pressler, R-South Dakota; Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vermont; and Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona."

The senators also will hear testimony from James Barksdale, president/CEO of Netscape Communications Corp. and a vocal critic of current U.S. encryption policy, as well as Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, and Roel Pieper, president/CEO of Tandem Computers Inc.

Freeh Fears Free Encryption

FBI Director Louis Freeh has told a congressional committee he thinks eliminating U.S. export restrictions on computer encryption would gravely harm law enforcement efforts to catch criminals and terrorists. Offering the Clinton administration's case against a bipartisan proposal to relax existing export rules at a Senate Commerce Committee hearing yesterday, Freeh said, "The bills that are before the committee are remarkably devoid of even a reference to public safety or to law enforcement."

As reported, use of encryption within the U.S. is unregulated, but a Cold War-era munitions statute specifies that only weak coding programs can be exported. Most of those export restrictions would be abolished under Senate bill 1726, the Promotion of Commerce Online in the Digital Era Act of 1996. Such encryption uses mathematical formulas to scramble information and render it unreadable without a password or software "key," and Freeh and the administration support an alternative approach backed by the administration, and barred by bill 1726, known as key escrow.

Associated Press writer Curt Anderson says Freeh told the senators a man charged with plotting to blow up 11 U.S. airliners used computer security codes so powerful the FBI hasn't been able to crack them. The sophisticated encryption codes were used by Ramzi Yousef, an Islamic militant who is being tried in New York and also faces charges as the alleged mastermind of the World Trade Center bombing, Freeh said.

Added Freeh, "Encryption products used unchecked by criminals and terrorists for their illegal activities pose an extremely serious and, I believe, unacceptable threat." Meanwhile, Aaron Pressman of the Reuter News Service quotes Freeh as adding, "The danger results in criminals and terrorists being able to encrypt telephone calls that cannot be deciphered and to encrypt computer files in ways that are unbreakable," Freeh said. "But the technology that makes encryption possible has also produced an answer to the problem in providing a balance. It is called key escrow, key recovery or trusted third party system."

At the same hearing, representatives of U.S. computer companies said they are losing sales to foreign companies willing to sell robust encryption programs without key escrow. Netscape Communications Corp. president James Barksdale said his company will lose \$40 million in sales this year to competitors in Europe and around the globe. Barksdale testified, "Just as U.S. consumers bought fuel-efficient cars from Japan during the energy crisis of the 1970s, consumers are turning to security-proficient software products from non-U.S. firms during the Internet explosion of the 1990s."

Barksdale and others argued that criminals would evade any U.S. scheme for key escrow encryption by using foreign or homemade coding products. Reuters notes Japan, where wiretaps are prohibited, has shown little interest in key escrow, former U.S. ambassador to Venezuela Michael Skol testified. Japan's Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. is selling a complex encryption computer chip for about \$100.

On this point, Freeh conceded, "If a few countries, particularly key countries, don't adopt this, that's a great vulnerability in the system." However, so far, he said, encryption is not widely used in the United States or abroad. Only about 5 percent of specimens submitted to the FBI computer analysis lab show incidences of encryption which are troubling, Freeh said. "We do not yet have in the United States an encryption crisis," Freeh said, but broad export of encryption by U.S. companies would make unbreakable coded messages "routine" in the future.

"What I'm very fearful of, and what I think everybody in this room needs to be fearful of," said Freeh, "is a situation where as a matter of policy the United States has promoted and exported robust, unaccessible encryption ... that builds up infrastructures where this capability is so routine."

N.Y. Judges Reject Net Curbs

Saying the measure bans constitutionally protected speech between adults, New York federal judges have blocked enforcement of a new law aimed at regulating indecent material on the Internet. Judges from the Southern District of New York granted an injunction sought by the editor of The American Reporter, an online newspaper, who argued that the law was too broad.

This ruling comes on the heels of last month's judge by a Philadelphia panel that also found a key part of the law to be unconstitutional. Law correspondent Gail Appleson of United Press International notes the previous ruling went farther than the one issued in New York by finding the law too vague as well as too broad. At issue here is the controversial Computer Decency Act of 1996, passed overwhelmingly by Congress as part of the broader Telecommunications Act of 1996 and signed by President Bill Clinton on Feb. 8. As noted, because lawmakers expected immediate constitutional challenges, they included provisions allowing swift appeals first through special panels and then directly to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Part of the law, known as 223(d), makes it a crime to make indecent material available on computer systems that are accessible to children and provides for prison terms of two years and an \$250,000 fine if indecent material is transmitted to minors. However, the New York panel said government attempts to limit offensive material to children also would place unacceptable restrictions on adults. It said the section not only regulates how pornographic material is sold and advertised, but "how private individuals who choose to exchange certain constitutionally protected communications with one another can do so."

Says the New York ruling, "The question presented is whether our Constitution tolerates this level of governmental intrusion into how adults speak to one another ... We reach the inescapable conclusion that 223(d) will serve to chill protected speech." UPI says the panel -- comprised Jose Cabranes of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals and District Judges Leonard Sand and Denise Cote -- discussed software designed to enable parents to limit children's exposure to inappropriate material, saying, "Indecent content on the Internet ordinarily does not assault a user without warning: a child cannot gain access to Internet content with the touch of a remote control and while accidental viewing of indecent content is possible, there is no evidence in this record to suggest that it is likely."

Appleson quotes the ruling as adding that while parents can take steps to restrict access by their children, content providers have no way of guaranteeing that indecent material will not reach a minor. The wire service reports, "The judges said that the only way a content provider would comply with the section would be to refrain from sending out the objectionable material."

Said the panel, "Because adults would lack means of engaging in constitutionally protected indecent communications over the Internet without fear of criminal liability, the statute would unquestionably be unconstitutional."

An agreement to jointly promote and distribute each other's Internet products has been signed by AT&T Corp. and Microsoft Corp. Reporting from Microsoft's Redmond, Washington, headquarters, United Press International says AT&T's WorldNet Service, which provides access to the Internet, will distribute Microsoft Internet Explorer software starting in the early fall. Additionally, the AT&T access service will be included with Microsoft Windows 95 software.

"Microsoft has been scrambling," UPI comments, "to form such alliances in order to set itself up as the leading player for software for Internet and for internal corporate networks, known as Intranets. However, it has fallen well behind Netscape Communications Corp. in the key category of browser software." Meanwhile, AT&T has been actively pushing its Internet access service, after announcing Feb. 27 that it would offer its 80 million residential customers a year of free trial access to the global computer network of five hours per month. "We are pleased to offer the browser many of our customers have been asking for, Microsoft Internet Explorer," AT&T Vice President Tom Eyslin told the wire service.

NEC, Ipsilon Make Net Tie-up

A tie-up with U.S.-based Ipsilon Networks to market switching systems that allow fast data transmission on the Internet and on internal corporate communications networks called intranets has been announced by Japanese electronics giant NEC Corp. Reporting from Tokyo, The Associated Press says the switching systems, developed by Ipsilon, will cost up to \$200,000 each.

NEC officials told the wire service the companies expect annual sales of the systems in Japan to rise to \$360 million by 2001. The companies also plan to sell the systems jointly outside Japan, but don't have concrete plans yet. AP says Ipsilon will provide Internet protocol software for the systems, while NEC will provide asynchronous transfer mode hardware. Hirokazu Otsuka, head of NEC's data transmission department, told AP the systems process information 100 times faster than present data-routing technology and can handle larger amounts of information.

Caldera Alleges Microsoft Unfair

A small software firm backed by Novell Inc. founder Ray Noorda has sued Microsoft Corp., alleging the software giant willfully maintains a monopoly over its operating software through unlawful pricing, programming and licensing. Salt Lake City-based Caldera, seeking an unspecified amount of damages, filed the antitrust suit Tuesday in U.S. District Court here, a day before it acquired the DR-DOS operating system from Novell, according to The Associated Press.

AP quotes Caldera attorney Stephen D. Susman as saying the company is pursuing the matter to "open the market to Microsoft competitors." And Caldera CEO Bryan Sparks told the wire service, "This is a landmark case in our industry. We're in a unique position (to sue Microsoft) because as a company we sell a product and we're not reliant on Microsoft for technology exchange."

Adds Susman, "It is our intention to finish the job the Justice Department left unfinished when it settled its antitrust complaint through consent decree." The Caldera suit comes two years after Microsoft settled an antitrust case brought by the U.S. Justice Department over its base operating system product. Microsoft was forced to change contracts with personal computer manufacturers that purportedly shut out competing operating system software. As reported, in that agreement, Microsoft neither admitted or

denied guilt.

Meanwhile, Microsoft spokesman Mark Murray told AP, "We have not yet seen the complaint but based on the press release, this appears to be simply a rehash of tired old allegations that are completely without merit. It's ironic given all of the new competition and innovation that's going on in the software industry today that Caldera is filing a lawsuit about outdated technology that the market has long left behind."

DR DOS, an operating system developed by Digital Research Inc. to rival MS-DOS, was purchased by Novell in 1991 and discontinued in 1994. AP says Caldera plans to reintroduce the full line of DR DOS products and offer additional product features. "Among the allegations," says AP, "Caldera accuses Microsoft of advertising in May 1990 a comparable product to DR DOS 5.0 well before the product was released in June 1991. The practice is known in the industry as 'vaporware.' When the software was released, 'it did not offer the features Microsoft had promised,' according to the suit."

In addition, Caldera questions Microsoft's contract and licensing agreements. The suit says PC manufacturers "were required to pay Microsoft a royalty on every PC they sold regardless of whether it contains Microsoft's MS-DOS, some other software developer's DOS software or no operating system software."

And the complaint adds, "Microsoft also informed certain PC manufacturers that they could not obtain Windows or be given access to essential information, product support and service if they did not purchase and ship MS-DOS, to the exclusion of DR DOS." AP says Caldera was founded in 1994 by Sparks with funding from Noorda. The company is making a commercial version of the Linux operating system for workstations and advanced personal computers.

Netscape Challenges Microsoft

In what is being seen as the latest development in an ongoing battle with Microsoft Corp., Netscape Communications Corp. has released details of technical standards software developers can use to make sure their programs can work together over private computer networks. Reporting from Netscape's Mountain View, Calif., headquarters, The Associated Press quotes Netscape also as saying 21 companies have agreed to include Netscape Open Network Environment standards in their software tools products.

"Such tools," says AP, "will let programmers dice their programs into parts. The parts should be able to accomplish their task in the original program or in another one. The idea is similar to the construction of recent office productivity programs, in which a spreadsheet can be run inside a word processing program." Microsoft and Netscape are trying to incorporate the same functionality into Web documents.

As reported earlier, Microsoft has agreed to transfer control of its similar technology to an independent standards body. That technology, called ActiveX, has evolved from one called Object Linking and Embedding, which the company previously promoted for office productivity applications. "By giving ActiveX to an independent organization," says AP, "Microsoft hopes to demonstrate it is an 'open' technical idea, able to work with information created or received on any kind of computer and not just those that run Microsoft operating programs."

Cray Says NEC Dumps Supercomputers

Cray Research today filed an antidumping petition charging NEC Corp. with underpricing supercomputers in an illegal effort to gain U.S. market share

and drive competition from the market. In a filing with the U.S. Department of Commerce and the International Trade Commission, Cray said NEC was taking an estimated \$65 million loss to supply vector supercomputers to the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colorado. Cray also said the proposed price was significantly less than that charged by NEC on recent major sales in Japan.

On May 20, NCAR tentatively agreed to purchase four NEC vector supercomputer systems as part of a five-year \$35.25- million contract with the Federal Computing Corp. The National Science Foundation, the primary funding agency for NCAR, had told NCAR that acquisition of the NEC supercomputers was contingent on NCAR demonstrating that the computers were not dumped.

NCAR also received bids from Cray and Fujitsu. Cray says it met all NCAR requirements, but that the center opted for the NEC bid, which offered more hardware -- but at a price substantially and illegally below the cost of production. Cray's petition estimates that NEC will lose a minimum of \$65 million on the proposed sale. Cray calculates that the systems will cost NEC more than \$80 million to produce versus about \$15 million in NEC revenue on the transaction.

"Cray Research favors open competition based on performance and fair pricing," says Cray President and chief operating officer Robert Ewald. "NEC's behavior undermines open competition and could permanently distort pricing in the supercomputer market. Behavior like this, if not checked, can lead to less competition and higher prices in the long term."

NEC Disputes Cray Charges

Japanese electronics giant NEC Corp. contends U.S. supercomputer maker Cray Research Inc. is using incorrect figures in lodging an anti-dumping petition against it over its sales of supercomputers in the United States. As reported, Cray accuses NEC of underpricing supercomputers in an illegal effort to gain U.S. market share and drive competition from the market.

In Tokyo today, the Reuter News Service quotes NEC Vice President Masao Toka as saying Cray's charge that NEC would lose \$65 million in selling supercomputers to the National Center for Atmospheric Research was a total fabrication. Toka said Cray vastly overstated NEC's research and development costs, while underestimating NEC's revenues.

Says Reuters, "Cray charged on Monday that NEC was taking an estimated \$65 million loss to supply supercomputers to the U.S. organization. This was assuming revenue from the deal of \$15 million and costs of \$80 million. Toka said NEC's revenue from the deal would be \$30 million, but declined to disclose costs." Cray also alleged NEC sold supercomputers in Japan at a much higher price than in the U.S., but, says Reuters, "Toka said such a comparison was meaningless, because NEC's sales costs to Japanese institutions, cited by Cray, included charges for maintenance, system integration and other services." Toka said that if Cray's lawyers and executives were found to have signed the anti-dumping petition with the knowledge that Cray used wrong figures in calculations of NEC's deal with the U.S. center, NEC would take legal action against them.

Corel, Packard Bell Set Deal

Corel Corp. reports that it has reached a new bundling agreement with PC maker Packard Bell Inc. that will result in the preinstallation of Corel WordPerfect Suite 7 on all Packard Bell PCs distributed worldwide. The deal's terms weren't disclosed. Corel WordPerfect Suite 7 includes Corel

WordPerfect 7, Corel Quattro Pro 7, Corel Presentations 7, CorelFLOW 3, 150 fonts and 10,000 clip art images. Each PC will also ship with a copy of the suite on CD-ROM.

"This agreement represents a huge leap forward in our efforts to increase our share of the productivity applications market," says Michael Cowpland, Corel's president and CEO. "Packard Bell has offered us an incredible opportunity to showcase our new offering." Corel says the new relationship will enable Corel to take advantage of Packard Bell's vast, worldwide marketing channel, as well as to participate with the computer giant at upcoming trade shows.

Hitachi, Robotics Make Pact

A partnership has been launched under which Hitachi PC Corp.'s notebook computers will be equipped with U.S. Robotics Corp.'s modems. Reporting from Palo Alto, California, the Reuter News Service says financial terms were not disclosed, but the agreement marks the launch of a major effort to expand the U.S. Robotics brand name, adding the Hitachi products will bear the Robotics label alongside its own. "U.S. Robotics said the deal was not exclusive and could lead to further branding arrangements for its products with other personal computer makers," the wire service adds. Hitachi Vice President Mark Yahiro said the modems would be integrated into the Hitachi line of notebook machines within the next 60 days.

Broderbund to Buy T/Maker

Broderbund Software Inc. says it has signed a definitive agreement to purchase T/Maker Co. from its parent company, Deluxe Corp. T/Maker, based in Mountain View, Calif., publishes the ClickArt line of clip art software for desktop and Internet publishing. Terms of the agreement were not disclosed. Novato, California-based Broderbund says it currently anticipates that T/Maker, which has approximately 40 employees, will continue to operate in Mountain View as a wholly-owned Broderbund subsidiary. The acquisition awaits government approval.

"We see T/Maker as a natural addition to our product line, particularly to expand the content in our leading Print Shop family with T/Maker's ClickArt products," says Broderbund President Bill McDonagh. "This acquisition gives Broderbund's product line another evergreen product that complements and increases our existing portfolio. Combined with the talented development team at T/Maker, we believe that this is an excellent addition to our business, both domestically and worldwide."

Lexmark Launches Awareness Effort

Printer maker Lexmark International Inc. is hoping that a new brand awareness campaign will raise its corporate profile. The multimillion dollar deal with Grey Advertising and Goldberg Moser O'Neill is Lexmark's first global, comprehensive branding campaign since it spun off from IBM Corp. in 1991. "The advertising campaign clearly articulates Lexmark as the value and performance leader in PC-based printing," says Susan Gauff, Lexmark's vice president of corporate communications. "To enhance our position, we want consumers to understand that Lexmark is a fully integrated technology leader that has consistently led the market with innovations in printer hardware and software at competitive prices." The campaign, which features a "Print Lexmark" theme, will primarily be focused on print advertising before expanding into broadcast in 1997. Lexmark says the campaign will be integrated into all aspects of its marketing efforts worldwide, including public relations and packaging.

Apple Releases New Mac QuickTime

Apple Computer Inc. has announced the availability of QuickTime 2.5 for Macintosh, an enhanced version of its software standard for storing, editing and playing synchronized video, sound, music, graphics and text. Apple says QuickTime 2.5 addresses the needs of content creators for broadcast, music, film and the Internet.

QuickTime 2.5's new features include an enhanced music architecture, multiprocessor compatibility, support for 3-D objects; a graphic importer and support for Closed-Caption technology. "Digital technology is blurring the lines between traditional media markets, professional film and video producers, consumer multimedia developers, and Internet content creators," says Carlos Montalvo, director of products and technologies for Apple's interactive media group. "This has created a significant challenge for the creative world."

"QuickTime makes it easy for broadcast professionals, CD-ROM developers and Internet content creators to manage and repurpose their content for new markets, thereby receiving a greater return on their investments," comments Ellen Hancock, Apple's chief technology officer and executive vice president of research and development. QuickTime 2.5 for Macintosh is available, free of charge, through Apple's QuickTime home page on the World Wide Web (<http://www.quicktime.apple.com>).

Toshiba to Launch DVD Player

In what The Wall Street Journal characterizes as "a daring move designed to force Hollywood's hand," Japanese computer giant Toshiba Corp. has set an autumn launch for the first player for digital video disks (DVDs). "Even though the movie industry still hasn't agreed to support the controversial format," writes Journal reporter Jeffrey A. Trachtenberg this morning, "people familiar with Toshiba's plans say that the company hopes to create so much public interest in DVD that the Hollywood studios will feel compelled to speed up the tangled negotiations that have so far delayed the players' introduction."

But there is a danger, adds the paper, that Toshiba's plans will backfire, creating "frustration among consumers, as there will be few, if any, titles available this October," says Trachtenberg. The Journal notes that for more than a year, the consumer electronics industry has talked of the five-inch digital videodisk as the next major improvement in digital home entertainment. Each disk holds more than seven times the amount of information contained on a conventional compact disk, and can easily store a full-length Hollywood movie.

"In addition," says the Journal, "the disks are expected to spawn a new generation of richer, more exciting computer multimedia titles because of their increased data capacity." The paper detected surprise among Hollywood executives when they heard of Toshiba's plans. "Hollywood is worried," says Trachtenberg, "that it will be too easy to copy the disks onto other disks or videotape. The studios also want to design the disks with special coding that will keep them from being played in parts of the world where the disks haven't yet been released."

Enhanced StuffIt Ships

Aladdin Systems Inc., developer and publisher of the StuffIt Macintosh compression standard, says it is shipping an enhanced version of its StuffIt

SpaceSaver 4.0 software. The company says StuffIt SpaceSaver 4.0 includes icon tagging for easier identification of SpaceSaver-compressed files, a revised and simpler interface, faster compression and several other enhancements. "The release of SpaceSaver 4.0 should be a welcome upgrade because each improvement was specifically asked for by our current users," says Jon Kahn, Aladdin's sales and marketing director. StuffIt SpaceSaver 4.0 is priced at \$79.95.

Allen Out as Egghead Director

Egghead Inc. has announced that Paul G. Allen, the Microsoft Corp. co-founder and a long time Egghead investor, will be replaced on the company's board of directors by Eric Robison, an employee of Vulcan Ventures Inc., a private investment firm founded by Allen and for which Allen serves as chairman. In a statement, Allen noted that, "My many other commitments, both public and private, compel me to make this decision." Allen has served on Egghead's board of directors for over nine years. Robison will step into Allen's unexpired term immediately.

The company has also announced that Mel Wilmore, president and chief operating officer of Ross Stores Inc., has agreed to serve on the board. A statement issued by Egghead notes that Wilmore will bring "great depth of experience in retail operations to Egghead." Egghead, a retailer of computer software, hardware and accessories, has had a difficult time prospering in a market dominated by computer superstores. The firm is located in Spokane, Washington.

Prodigy's New Chief Takes Command

The new owner of the Prodigy online service has reorganized the company and installed new management as it completed its acquisition yesterday. As reported earlier, International Wireless Inc. a Cambridge, Massachusetts, firm that invests in cellular and Internet technology abroad, last May led the \$250 million buyout of Prodigy from its former owners, IBM and Sears, Roebuck & Co.

Writing in The Wall Street Journal this morning, reporter Jared Sandberg says the buyer now has merged its operations with Prodigy's, renamed the combined companies Prodigy Inc. and installed two International Wireless executives as chairman/CEO. "Prodigy, which has one million members and almost no growth, has been falling far behind rivals," Sandberg says. Ed Bennett, the former Viacom Inc. executive who was hired last year to pull the ailing on-line service out of its funk, "was forced to scrap his turnaround effort when Sears clamped down on new investments and began shopping its half of the service last November," he adds.

Now, though, Bennett, who was Prodigy's CEO, "will exercise a far smaller role, though one near to his heart. He will head a new venture-capital division, dubbed Prodigy Ventures Inc., which will invest in new technology and media, not necessarily for the online service." The Journal quotes one official as saying Bennett will have as much as \$50 million to invest in a new concern, noting that last year Bennett started a similar strategy, his so-called Wildflower initiative, to invest in start-ups but was halted by the company's former owners.

Meanwhile, the new CEO at Prodigy is Paul DeLacey, who had been International Wireless' chief operating officer. IW Co-Chairman Greg Carr denied reports the move was pushing Bennett aside, saying, "If I really wanted to push Ed aside, I could have just given him a bunch of stock. I wouldn't put a whole bunch of money under his control if I didn't believe in him."

Meanwhile, executives at Prodigy told the paper they hope to turn the service around by leveraging existing partnerships of International Wireless and Prodigy's shift to the Internet. Bennett said much of Prodigy's electronic fare is already compatible with the Internet and that new software based on Internet technology will be shipped this fall.

Study Offers Cyberspace Snapshot

A new study from IntelliQuest Information Group Inc. offers yet another cyberspace snapshot. The Austin, Texas-based market research firm reports that the U.S. Internet/online population consists of approximately 35 million adults (age 16 and above), with only two and a half million people using the Internet and online services more than 20 hours per week. The study also finds that the Internet and worldwide online services are growing rapidly, with 9 million people -- 26 percent of the total user base -- first accessing the Internet in the first quarter of 1996.

Among the study's other findings:

- Eighteen million users primarily access cyberspace at home, versus 9 million people who access from work and 5 million from school
- Over 21 million non-users indicated they intended to begin using the Internet or an online service in the next twelve months (as of the start of 1996's second quarter).
- Most users are very selective and focused in their use of the Internet or online services, with only 19 percent indicating that they "cruise" or "surf."
- Only 17 percent of online users find online entertainment better than television.
- Only 7 percent of users had purchased a product or information online during a one-month period measured by the study.

PC Sales Growth Slows

Dataquest Inc. researchers says sales of personal computers grew more slowly in the second quarter than in the first. Business writer Evan Ramstad of The Associated Press says the PC market grew 16.5 percent worldwide and 12 percent in the United States, down from 18.4 percent worldwide growth and 14.7 percent U.S. growth in the first quarter. Growth in both markets exceeded 20 percent during the second quarter of 1995.

The study says Compaq Computer Corp. still leads the industry but the Houston computer maker lost ground in both worldwide and U.S. sales to second-place IBM and others. Compaq's worldwide market share was 9.7 percent and U.S. share was 12.4 percent in the second quarter. During the first quarter, Compaq had a 9.8 percent worldwide market share and 12.7 percent in the United States. A year ago, Compaq had 10.4 percent of the world market and 12.6 percent of the U.S. market.

Meanwhile, IBM's worldwide PC market share jumped to 8.8 percent from 7.2 percent in the first quarter and its U.S. share jumped to 9.0 percent from 6.1 percent in the first quarter. A year ago, IBM had 7.7 percent of the world PC market and the U.S. market. AP notes IBM was the No. 1 PC seller for many years until it was unseated by Compaq in 1994. Compaq's growth was 8.5 percent worldwide and 10.4 percent in the United States. IBM's growth was 33.6 percent worldwide and 31.1 percent in the United States.

Still in third place worldwide is Apple Computer, though Dataquest says its sales dropped nearly 17 percent. The company had 5.3 percent of the world

market and 7.4 percent of the U.S. market, where it was No. 4 in sales. In the U.S. market, the third place was held by Packard Bell, with an 8.7 percent share, though growth was a slim 3.8 percent. Its overseas operations are too small for the company to count among the five largest worldwide PC sellers, Ramstad observes. Rounding out the field were NEC as the fourth largest worldwide PC maker with 5.1 percent of the market, Hewlett-Packard next with 4.3 percent and Dell Computer Corp. as fifth in U.S. sales with a 7.2 percent market share.

IDC Says U.S. PC Market Grows

The U.S. PC market continued its pattern of substantial unit growth in the second quarter, dispelling lingering concerns about a possible market slowdown, says market researcher IDC. IDC notes that Compaq Computer Corp. once again led the market, despite slipping slightly in market share as it prepared for several major product transitions. IBM rejoined the firm's top five vendor list, boosted by rising portables sales and the smooth introductions of new products.

The overall market grew 18 percent from the year-ago period to 5.96 million unit shipments. This compares favorably with the first quarter growth rate of 16 percent, says IDC. Sales accelerated in portables and commercial desktops, propelled by new products from major vendors and healthy economic conditions. Consumer sales were seasonally slow, notes IDC, as vendors prepared for a wave of new home PCs by clearing retailer's inventories of older systems. "Some keep predicting a major PC drought, but market conditions in the second quarter continued to produce good growth, especially for major vendors boasting complete product portfolios," says Bruce Stephen, IDC's vice president of worldwide personal systems. "We think the ingredients are in place to reap a strong second half."

Net Connectivity a CD-ROM Trend

New research finds that hybrid CD-ROMs -- discs that include online communications, links to expanded content and/or network game play -- are rapidly proliferating, breaking out of vertical professional and corporate markets and into the consumer mainstream. From just 311 titles in print worldwide at year end 1995, the number of hybrid CD-ROM/online titles in print worldwide is projected to more than double to 720 by the end of 1996, according to market researcher InfoTech of Woodstock, Vermont. InfoTech predicts that the hybrid CD-ROM market will surge to 3,500 titles in 1997, accounting for nearly 10 percent of all CD-ROM titles in print worldwide.

Intense competition in the consumer games, entertainment, reference, and software applications markets are spurring the growth in hybrids, says InfoTech President Julie B. Schwerin. "In certain genres, such as encyclopedias and action games, hybrids, while relatively new, are dominating retail sales. This is raising the production bar -- online connectivity is increasingly a feature that consumers expect. Consequently, publishers are rushing to upgrade existing products and outfit new ones with embedded or bundled browsers to access complimentary online content."

According to InfoTech, Internet service providers and commercial online services are encouraging the hybrid trend, viewing commercial CD-ROMs as a vehicle for customer recruitment. InfoTech projects that by the end of 1996, 41 percent of hybrid titles will connect to the World Wide Web, 34 percent to private dial-up networks or bulletin boards and 25 percent to commercial online services, including online game networks.

Hybrid publishers are also experimenting with online transactions,

advertising and merchandise sales as well as selling premium subscription services. But Schwerin cautions that most consumer hybrid publishers are not yet generating revenue from online sources. "Most publishers view hybrids as a competitive weapon and a marketing tool -- the latest feature you need to get on the shelves and attract consumers," she says. "At the same time, most do intend to derive significant online revenues within two to three years."

New Net Audio System Launched

Software that promises to make voice and music received over the Internet sound as good as music-CDs is being launched by Macromedia Inc., which is calling this a breakthrough advance from typical choppy, static-filled sound of current Net audio. Writing from San Francisco for the Reuter News Service, Barbara Grady reports the new version of the product called Shockwave also vows to avoid the long download time sometimes needed to get audio from the Internet before it can be heard.

Engineering Vice President Norman Meyrowitz told the wire service, "The difference between the old Shockwave and the next will be like the difference between an old record and a CD. It is going to really change the nature of audio on the Web." Adds Grady, "The new version uses a technology called audio streaming, along with compression of the audio digital information. ... In streaming, digits of audio data are received in packets a little at a time -- or just enough to keep the sound coming in a normal-sounding way." This differs from regular packet transmission, which produces static filled bursts of sound that does not replicate a real voice, she adds. Since Macromedia introduced its original Shockwave seven months ago, some 10 million or more people have downloaded it off of the Internet to use on hundreds of sites developed with it.

Poll Predicts Net Revenue Growth

A new survey finds a majority of those in the interactive industry cautiously optimistic about growth in advertising revenues, online shopping sales and number of subscribers by the end of the year. The respondents also predict commercial online services will be need to create a new business model to ensure their future as consumers flock to the Internet and the World Wide Web.

Conducted during this week's 11th annual conference of the Interactive Services Association in San Diego, California, the survey, which used 200 polling devices provided by NTN Communications, found:

- Forty-two percent of the membership believes the number of paid subscribers will remain under 20 million through 1996, with only 16 percent confident it would reach more than 30 million.
- Some 78 percent of the voters predicted ad revenues would not exceed \$200 million and 85 percent felt that online shopping would stay under \$400 million, the most conservative choices.
- Thirty-two percent predict a typical World Wide Web content site will take four years to make a profit, 23 percent think it will require two years and only 3 percent one year. However, 40 percent believe that a typical site will never break even.
- The vast majority (74 percent) believe that the online services will need to create a new way to stay profitable while competing with the Internet

and Web direct access facilitators, while only 14 percent anticipate that the online services will become the Net gateway of choice.

Meanwhile, those polled were divided on the future of Internet appliances. Forty-eight percent said Net appliances would be valuable to consumers, but would meet with limited success, while 26 percent felt the products would fail and 20 percent indicated they believed such appliances were the answer for universal access for the populace.

However, a combination of phone and Net integration is perceived as the hottest telephone application of the next five years, according to 59 percent of the members. "For those betting on the most successful areas of growth in the interactive industry," says an ISA statement, "the membership overwhelmingly predicts that the companies focusing on transactional support processes would be the most attractive stocks for institutional investors. Sixty-eight percent voted for transaction support, with 15 percent maintaining they would recommend staying out of the market and another 11 percent would propose investing in search engines." Also, noted the statement, "Interestingly, more than 71 percent believe the Internet will change the world, but only 16 percent perceive the Internet to be a source of revenue in the future."

Intel Seeks PC in Every Home

Chipmaker Intel Corp. is pushing ahead with its hopes of seeing a PC in every home, inviting some 1,500 content developers, entertainment writers and advertising professionals to a show of creative things that can be done using a PC and the Internet. Reporting from San Francisco, Barbara Grady of the Reuter News Service notes that in one example Intel and Sony Corp. demonstrated how the Internet could be used to bring a live performance by a musician in France into a personal computer in the United States.

Intel also has launched a new program to give software designers and the people who create entertainment access to the latest technology to help them build glitzy software. Says Vice President Ron Whittier, general manager of Intel's Content Group, "We want them to develop content that is more demanding of the PC." Intel says that next year it will provide souped-up multimedia chips known as MMX technology, 3-D graphics controllers and advanced audio processing for mainstream PCs in the \$2,000 price range. Reuters says the firm also is working outside its industry with disk drive makers and telecommunications companies to get non-chip technology into the market -- such as digital video disk technology, or DVD, and Internet telephones.

Priest Advises Net Audience

Advice in cyberspace to people with personal problems ranging from marriage to suicide is being provided by a Singapore Catholic priest. Thirty-five-year-old Father John Paul Tan tells the French Agence France-Press he receives about a dozen e-mail messages from people from all walks of life for about two hours daily, the time he had allocated for such type of social service.

"Most people who message me are young adults and those studying in the universities," says Father Tan, one of four priests at the Church of St. Mary of the Angels in western Singapore island. AFP says Catholics and non-Catholics make appointments with him to discuss marriage plans, ask for advice about relationship problems, or send queries about religion and God. "His online interaction was via a computer in his room, which he checks three

times a day," the wire service reports. "He takes about a week to compose replies to each message he receives." But the priest draws the line at online confessions. "Giving advice on the Internet is fine, I think," he says, but "the nature of confessions is so personal and it is not possible to convey emotions and sensitivity over the Internet."

James Dean Web Sites Feuding

A landmark case involving copyright law on the Internet may be growing out of a feud between two sites on the World Wide Web, both devoted to the memory of legendary actor James Dean. According to the Reuter News Service, Curtis Management Group Worldwide, licensing agents for the James Dean Foundation, has filed suit in Marion County Superior Court in Indiana against California-based American Legends and its principals, James Pitts, Martin Pitts and Ronald Martinetti.

Says Reuters, "CMG, which also represents such dead celebrities as Marilyn Monroe, Humphrey Bogart and Babe Ruth, is charging that the American Legends Internet site illegally uses Dean's signature and several photos that are protected by CMG....American Legends disputes CMG's charges." Martinetti, an attorney and author of a Dean biography, recently told Daily Variety newspaper, "We believe that the Foundation and CMG's threat to suppress our site raises some interesting issues regarding free speech and access to information on the Net." American Legends maintains a James Dean Web site at Web address <http://www.americanlegends.com>, while CMG's site is at <http://www.cmrgww.com>.

Engineer, Intel Feud Over Logo

A Texas computer chip design engineer says he is drawing fire from chip giant Intel Corp. because of his online spoof of the company logo. Intel wants Robert Collins to stop using his version of its company logo on his site on the Internet's World Wide Web, saying Collins has "tarnished" the symbol, a valuable property it says it must protect. However, Collins contends his takeoff is legitimate. "It's a parody," he told business writer Catalina Ortiz of The Associated Press, adding there are disclaimers and marked differences between the logos, which he said ensure that viewers understand he has no connection with Intel. Meanwhile, Collins said he thought Intel might be miffed by his Web site that reveals undisclosed details of the company's computer chips.

Called "Intel Secrets: What Intel Doesn't Want You To Know," Collins' site (reached at Web address <http://www.x86.org>) offers information on errors in Intel's industry-leading chips and gives programming tips. But Intel says the content of Collins' site is information that can be obtained legitimately from working with the chips and isn't the issue. Instead, what Collins did with Intel's logo, a distinctive arrangement of letters in the company's name, has the firm fuming. Ortiz notes, "The company's logo is the word 'Intel' in lower-case with the 'e' dipped below the other letters. Collins' 'Intel Secrets' logo uses the same typeface as Intel but reverses the letter 'e' and puts over it the word the international symbol of a red circle with a line across it. It also puts the word 'secrets' in the same typeface and dips the first 'e.'"

Chuck Molloy, a spokesman for Santa Clara, California-based Intel, says Collins' argument that his logo is just a parody -- a fair use of the symbol -- doesn't work. While people can properly parody a company's name, he said, they cannot properly parody a logo, which is considered artwork. Says Molloy, "The issue here is it's just like any other piece of property. And it's our obligation to protect Intel property. And if we don't take active

steps to protect it, we could lose our legal rights."

AP says Intel does not intend to go after Collins for alleged trademark violation, but it does intend to fight his application to trademark his "Intel Secrets" logo. Collins, who works for Texas Instruments Inc. in Dallas, says he already has changed his logo at Intel's request, but Intel said the changes don't go far enough. (Originally Collins just used his version of the words "Intel Secrets." Says Ortiz, "He later added the red circle, the disclaimer and 'Intel Absolutely Not Inside,' a jab at the company's 'Intel Inside' phrase.")

Mac Anti-Virus Software Upgraded

McAfee Inc. has introduced VirusScan 2.0 for the Macintosh, an enhanced version of its anti-virus software. The product, which was originally based upon source code licensed by McAfee from Northwestern University, now incorporates over thirty new features. According to Santa Clara, California-based McAfee, VirusScan 2.0 for the Macintosh provides protection against all known Word Macro viruses, conventional viruses, Hypercard Stack viruses and trojan horses.

"VirusScan for the Macintosh has evolved dramatically since its introduction in December 1995," says Chris Harget, anti-virus product manager at McAfee. "Today, just seven months later, we've delivered on our commitment to create an industry-leading anti-virus solution for the Macintosh. Viruses pose an increasing threat to the Macintosh user community, especially with the rapid growth in the number of multi-platform Word Macro viruses." VirusScan 2.0 for the Macintosh is scheduled to begin shipping on August 9. It will have an estimated street price of \$49.

16 Charged in Net Porn Ring

Sixteen men have been accused of participating in an international Internet pedophilia ring in which, authorities allege, members once chatted online while a 10-year-old girl was being molested. Thirteen of the men have been arrested, while the other three still are being sought. The San Jose, California, federal grand jury indictment handed down yesterday alleges the men belonged to a group called the "Orchid Club," a chat room in which users swapped stories about child sex and conspired to produce and exchange sexually explicit images of girls as young as 5. Says The Associated Press, "The images -- called 'privates' -- included still photographs and movie-like files created with digital video cameras." FBI spokesman George Grotz told the wire service, "Many of the subjects not only viewed this child pornography but actually took part in assembling it and producing it themselves. That's what makes this case unique."

AP quotes authorities as saying people were allowed to join the club only after members recommended them. "After receiving a password to enter the chat room," says the wire service, "they were initiated by recounting a sexual experience with a child." The FBI says its investigation was sparked by the arrest of Californians Melton Lee Myers, 55, of Santa Rosa and Ronald Riva, 38, of Monterey County. AP reports, "Authorities said the two men orchestrated a video session in April with a 10-year-old Monterey County girl who was instructed to pose in sexually explicit positions at the request of members in the United States and Finland who watched the images being instantly transmitted to their computers, the indictment said."

Besides California, suspects are from Oklahoma, Washington, Kansas, Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan, Mississippi, Massachusetts, Australia, Canada and Finland. The men are charged with conspiracy to possess and distribute child

pornography. Six of them, including Myers and Riva, also were charged with aiding and abetting in the sexual exploitation of children. Authorities say that, if convicted, each defendant faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for each count of the indictment.

CD-ROM Pirates Get Long Jail Terms

A Singapore court has handed two convicted CD-ROM pirates the longest jail terms in Southeast Asia for copyright infringement. United Press International reports that the two men, who were sentenced to 30 months and 18 months in jail respectively, both owned and operated shops that sold counterfeit CD-ROMs. UPI adds that private investigators hired by the Alliance Against CD-ROM Theft discovered the two stores in Singapore's Sim Lim Square, a mall specializing in computer and electronics products. The investigators alerted Singapore police to the illegal activities, which led to raids of the shops and the recovery of more than 5,000 fake CD-ROMS.

Adobe NewsWire STR Infofile

Adobe Systems Announces Support for Microsoft Windows NT 4.0 Operating System

Mountain View, Calif., (July 31, 1996) (Nasdaq: ADBE)-Adobe Systems Incorporated today announced plans to deliver Microsoft Windows NT 4.0 compatible products that take advantage of the enhanced levels of power and ease of use offered by Microsoft Corporation's new operating system.

Adobe's planned support of Windows NT 4.0 software continues its commitment to deliver 32-bit applications that maximize the robust functionality of the Windows platform. Adobe applications currently supporting Windows 95 include, FrameMaker, PageMaker, Photoshop and Adobe Type Manager. Adobe products expected to support Windows NT 4.0 in forthcoming releases include Adobe Acrobat, Adobe After Effects, FrameMaker, Adobe Illustrator, PageMaker, Adobe PageMill, PhotoDeluxe, Photoshop, Adobe Premiere and Adobe Type Manager software.

Adobe offers a broad range of support for Windows 95 and Windows NT features in existing applications including OLE 2.0 support with drag and drop; context-sensitive menus; long file names; and symmetric multiprocessor support, which delivers workstation-level performance to the Windows desktop.

"Adobe continues to lead the way in delivering new 32-bit applications that take maximum advantage of Windows NT and Windows 95," said Bryan Lamkin, director of graphics products, Adobe Systems Incorporated. "The improved performance, robustness, and ease of use offered by Windows NT 4.0 will greatly enhance the creative experience for our Windows customers in the print, video and Internet markets." For Immediate Release Press contact: Th^r^ose M. Bruno 206 470.7568 Fax 206 470.7125 thebruno@adobe.com

<http://www.adobe.com>

Adobe Systems Announces Support for Microsoft Windows NT 4.0 Operating System
As a demonstration of its commitment, Adobe intends to submit a broad range of its 32-bit Windows products for compliance testing required to carry the new "Designed for Windows NT and Windows 95" logo, which will help end users easily identify applications that are compatible with both Microsoft Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0.

Based in Mountain View, Calif., Adobe Systems Incorporated develops and supports products to help people express and use information in more imaginative and meaningful ways, across all print and electronic media. Founded in 1982, Adobe helped launch the desktop publishing revolution. Today, the company offers a market-leading line of application software and type products for creating and distributing visually rich communication materials; licenses its industry-standard technologies to major hardware manufacturers, software developers, and service providers; and offers integrated software solutions to businesses of all sizes. For more information, see the Adobe home page at <http://www.adobe.com> on the World Wide Web.

Adobe, the Adobe logo, Acrobat, Adobe After Effects, FrameMaker, Adobe Illustrator, PageMaker, Adobe PageMill, PhotoDeluxe, Photoshop, Adobe Premiere and Adobe Type Manager are trademarks of Adobe Systems Incorporated. Microsoft, Windows and Windows NT are registered trademarks of the Microsoft Corporation.

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CHILDREN TO GET THREE HOURS OF "EDUCATIONAL" TV

Television broadcasters have agreed to Clinton Administration requests to transmit three hours a week of educational TV for children, though there will be considerable flexibility in the definition of "educational." The agreement specifies only that the FCC "will ordinarily rely on the good faith judgment of the broadcasters" and will dispute their judgments "only as a last resort." (Atlanta Journal-Constitution 30 Jul 96 A3)

CLINTON ANTI-TERRORISM PLANS CALLED THREAT TO CIVIL LIBERTIES

To fight terrorism, the Clinton administration is proposing a number of

measures which civil libertarians say pose a serious threat to the freedoms of innocent users of phones and computers. A spokesman for the American Civil Liberties Union says: 'The president is using the bombing in Atlanta as a pretense to getting more wiretap authority. The answer to terrorism isn't to limit the freedoms of Americans. If we do that, the terrorists have already won.' (San Jose Mercury News 30 Jul 96)

ANOTHER RULING AGAINST COMMUNICATIONS DECENCY ACT

Echoing a decision made last month by federal judges in Philadelphia, a three-person panel of federal judges in Manhattan rule the Communications Decency Act (part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996) to be unconstitutional. The Act makes it a felony to transmit "indecent" or "patently offensive" material over computer networks where children might have access to it. The law suit involved an Internet-based newsletter opposed to legislation banning indecent but constitutionally protected speech on the Internet. The newsletter's author says it was "laced with four-letter and multisyllabic obscenities familiar to anyone and, frankly, the day I published that article, I had some very real fears of going to prison. But I felt so deeply that our rights were violated by the law, I had an obligation to fight it." The Justice Department is appealing the Philadelphia decision to the U.S. Supreme Court. (New York Times 30 96 A7)

NETSCAPE AND MICROSOFT DUEL OVER INTRANET MARKET

Netscape will give away software tools that make it easier for developers to write programs for internal company "intranets" using Internet formats. The tools will be compatible with Netscape ONE -- Netscape's name for a set of proposed industry standards that includes Corba, which competes with ActiveX, the proposed standard developed by Microsoft. By giving away Corba and other software-development tools that run on any computer operating systems, Netscape is trying to draw the attention of software developers away from ActiveX, which will initially run only on Microsoft Windows operating systems when it is released some months from now. (Wall Street Journal 29 Jul 96 B4)

EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE

The Software Publishers Association predicts the K12 educational technology market will grow from \$2.6 billion in 1993-94 to \$4.5 billion by 1999. A significant increase is also expected in the development of commercial software for higher education use. Educom president Robert C. Heterick Jr. says the ways to reduce the cost of higher education (which has tripled over the last decade, largely because of teacher salaries) is through the use of information technology in the colleges and universities: "Today you're looking at a highly personal, human-mediated environment. The potential to remove the human mediation in some areas and replace it with automation -- smart, computer-based, network-based systems - is tremendous. It's gotta happen." Heterick says the likeliest candidates include courses such as basic math, English and science. (New York Times 29 Jul 96 C5)

CRAY CHARGES NEC WITH "DUMPING" SUPERCOMPUTERS

Cray Research filed an "anti-dumping" petition against NEC Corporation, claiming that the Japanese company is selling supercomputers on the American market at less than what it costs to make them. In its complaint to the Commerce Department and International Trade Commission, Cray is charging that NEC is taking an estimated \$65 million loss to supply supercomputers to the National Center for Atmospheric Research. (Investor's Business Daily 30 Jul 96)

TOSHIBA WILL OFFER FIRST DVD PLAYER

By offering the first DVD player [Digital Video Disk or Digital Versatile Disk] this Fall even though the movie industry still hasn't agreed to

support the new format, Toshiba Corporation is hoping that its launch will create so much public interest in DVD that Hollywood will be forced to speed up the multi-industry negotiations that have delayed the introduction of the players. Each DVD holds more than seven times the amount of information contained on a conventional compact disk. (Wall Street Journal 29 Jul 96 B11B)

COPLAND MAY EMULATE WINDOWS AND UNIX

Sources close to Apple are saying that the company's new Copland operating system, scheduled now for release next summer, will be able to emulate Windows, Windows NT, or Unix from within the Macintosh operating system, but the product manager for Copland denies that there is an effort to add Windows capabilities. (Computerworld 29 Jul 96 p1)

IBM'S OLYMPIC-SIZED "ELEMENT OF RISK"

IBM chief executive Lou Gerstner told shareholders last April that the Centennial Olympics would provide IBM a chance to show its best on a world stage, but admitted: "I don't need to tell you there's an element of risk in stepping onto that stage." Following the well-publicized problems with the computerized system it developed for the Olympics, IBM said this week that, "in the light of how our system performance has been perceived," it had "reconsidered some ads" that it had been planning to run in various newspapers. (New York Times 29 Jul 96 C5, 30 Jul 96 C5)

JAPAN/U.S. CHIP PACT EXPIRES

The Japan/U.S. semiconductor market share agreement has expired, with both sides still far apart on terms for its renewal. Japan insists that the European Union be included in the pact whereas the U.S. wants to negotiate a new bilateral agreement. Both sides believe the expiring agreement has been a useful one, and a senior U.S. official says that "the point of the agreement was not to reach an arbitrary number but to force the Japanese to look at and integrate foreign producers into their production." (Financial Times 1 Aug 96)

MICROSOFT RELEASES WINDOWS NT 4.0

Windows NT 4.0 holds Microsoft's hopes of beating strong competitors like IBM, Oracle, Sun, HP, Netscape and others in the race to provide software for corporate and other large networks. Windows NT is the basis of Microsoft's Back Office software suite that generated more than \$1 billion last year, which represented 11% of Microsoft's total revenue. (USA Today 31 Jul 96 2A)

IBM, ORACLE, NEXT JUMP ON THE INTRANET WAGON

In separate recent announcements, IBM, Oracle and Next Software all have reaffirmed their commitment to corporate intranet support, following Netscape's lead in helping companies use intranets for information-sharing, publishing and collaborative work. "Large user organizations are trying to figure out what role the strategies play relative to the technology they already have and how they can leverage both," says a manager in the strategic technology group at Coopers & Lybrand. IBM plans to provide Smooth Start Services, a turnkey package that includes intranet server planning, configuration, installation, application development and training. Oracle's strategy is based on its Oracle Web Server 3.0, which will ship later this year, and will contain a Web Request Broker that supports the ability to manage databases from intranet applications. Next has forged a partnership with Netscape to jointly market Next's WebObjects software with Netscape's SuiteSpot server software and Navigator Gold browser. (Information Week 22 Jul 96 p28)

CELLULAR PHONE COMPANIES FIGHT CLONING

To fight the illegal practice called "cloning," cellular telephone carriers will be adopting new "smart phone" technology intended to foil high-tech criminals by matching calls with encoded passwords. In cloning, pirates use portable scanners and computers to intercept the cellular phone user's phone and serial numbers as they are being broadcast to a transmitting tower or "cell site." The new digital phones will contain a non-clonable "smart cards" that encrypt the identifying information to prevent scanners from eavesdropping or cloning the customer's telephone number. (San Jose Mercury News 1 Aug 96)

G7 LEADERS & THE INTERNET

Experts on electronic communications said ideas presented by G7 leaders for fighting terrorism by restricting access to the Internet are "naive and probably unworkable" because there are too many ways to circumvent censorship on the Net to believe regulation could prevent terrorists from using the technology for communications. (Toronto Globe & Mail 1 Aug 96 A4)

CANADIAN SERVICE PROVIDERS TACKLE OBJECTIONABLE MATERIAL

Canadian access providers are developing guidelines for dealing with potentially objectionable material and have set up a code of conduct committee, with goals that include establishing guidelines members can use to determine if information stored on their servers is illegal. (Toronto Globe & Mail 1 Aug 96 B1)

DELL OPENS UP SHOP ON THE INTERNET

Dell Computer is taking its direct sales strategy one step further into cyberspace. Its new "virtual store" at < <http://www.dell.com> > allows shoppers to fill out an order form, outline their PC specifications, and submit a payment option (purchase order, corporate lease or credit card), all on the Web. The company promises the online transactions will be secure. "We're in a really good position to do this and help lead the transition" to online selling, says a Dell spokesman. (Investor's Business Daily 29 Jul 96 A6)

FASTEAST MACS AREN'T MADE BY APPLE

The company that manufactures the fastest Macs in the land isn't headquartered in Cupertino, Calif., but rather is located just outside Austin, Texas. Power Computing, a Mac cloner, is already shipping a superfast machine based on a 225-megahertz PowerPC chip, and early this month plans to announce home Macs with speeds up to 240 Mhz -- well above Intel's 200-Mhz zenith. (Business Week 5 Aug 96 p6)

CERTIFIED WEB SITES

The National Computer Security Association in Carlisle, PA., will certify that a Web site meets minimum security specifications, including the presence of firewalls, use of passwords, and encryption of sensitive data transmission. Certifications costs \$8500 a year and requires that the site submit to remote tests, an NCSA site visit, and random compliance audits. (Computerworld 29 Jul 96 p2)

MICROSOFT WANTS TO BE LARGEST ADVERTISER ON THE NET

Microsoft chief operating officer Bob Herbold says that Microsoft is using the Internet to do "real-time marketing," with the goal of becoming the largest advertiser on the Internet. Herbold cited a recent campaign in which Microsoft responded to a Netscape ad on the Web offering \$66 upgrades to its Navigator program by quickly blanketing the Web with competing ads offering Microsoft's Explorer software free. (New York Times 1 Aug 96 C2)

(douglas@educom.edu).
Voice: 404-371-1853, Fax: 404-371-8057.

Technical support is provided by the Office of Information Technology,
University of North Carolina.

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

The CAUSE organization's annual conference on information technology in higher education is scheduled for the end of this month in New Orleans. The conference will bring together administrators, academicians and other managers of information resources. For full conference information check out <<http://cause-www.colorado.edu>> or send e-mail to conf@cause.colorado.edu.

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Educom -- Transforming Education Through Information Technology

For Immediate Release

Corel Releases Corel WEB.GRAPHICS SUITE

OTTAWA, Canada - July 31, 1996 - Corel Corporation, an award-winning developer and marketer of productivity applications, graphics and multimedia

software, today announced the release of CorelWEB.GRAPHICS SUITE, the latest addition to their Internet line of products. This comprehensive selection of HTML authoring, animation and graphics programs provide users with the ability to create state-of-the-art Web pages for the Internet or company intranet. With this suite, both novice and professionals can easily create Web pages that incorporate text, graphics, animations and virtual reality environments.

"This suite is designed to help users advance beyond the traditional Web page to create pages that are more interesting and informative as well as easy to understand," said Dr. Michael Cowpland, president and chief executive officer of Corel Corporation. "With Internet-ready samples and high-quality graphical content, this single package will give users the competitive edge necessary to promote themselves on the World Wide Web."

CorelWEB.GRAPHICS SUITE features the following six components:

CorelWEB.DESIGNER

Provides state of the art Internet authoring. Users require no HTML programming knowledge:

- create Web pages with a familiar word processor-style interface
- easy to use WYSIWYG HTML authoring; editable HTML source code view
- 120+ professionally designed templates
- support for JavaT applets
- client-side and server-side image mapping
- automatic BMP file conversion to GIF or JPEG
- tables and forms support
- add background images, font sizes, styles and colors
- hyperlinks and image hotspots let you link to local pages or other Internet sites

CorelWEB.Transit

Allows effortless publishing of existing documents to the Web:

- a tool to convert legacy documents into HTML format
- supports all popular word processing programs (Corel WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, Lotus Ami Pro, RTF)
- powerful customization
- allows users to create single source documents for paper and Web publishing
- file splitting and automatic generation of table of contents

CorelWEB.GALLERY

A time-saving, easy-to-access library of Internet-ready clipart images :

- 7,500 + images in GIF and JPEG formats
- royalty-free images
- backgrounds, separators, buttons, bullets, arrows, drop caps, clipart and more
- drag images and drop them into your Web page

CorelWEB.MOVE

Creates exciting animations that bring Web pages to life:

- supports numerous formats including JavaT applets and animated GIFs
- includes over 2,000 actors, props and sounds
- Timeline rollup with click-and-drag ease of use controls objects' entrance and exit
- import and add animation to your own images

CorelWEB.WORLD

Enables the user to turn a Web site into an interactive virtual reality:

- over 100 pre-designed models

- seamlessly integrate video, images, audio and text
- build links to connect visitors to other worlds, Web pages and more
- create 3D worlds in VRML or native MUS format

CorelWEB.DRAW

Allows users to create and edit illustrations with award-winning CorelDRAWT technology:

- extensive file import/export filters allow for easy graphic file conversions
- vector-based hyperlinks with most recent URL drop list
- create client-side image mapping and complete .HTM files
- extensive drawing tools and artistic text features
- special effects including Blend and 3D Extrusions
- fountain, fractal and texture fills
- supports Corel BaristaT technology

O'Reilly's WebSiteT 1.1 server software is a bonus application for Windowsr 95 and Windowsr NT users, while Windows 95 and Windowsr 3.1 users may take advantage of AT&T's WorldNet Service software including Netscape NavigatorT Internet browser.

Pricing and System Requirements

CorelWEB.GRAPHICS SUITE is available for a suggested retail price of \$299 US, with an upgrade price of \$99 US available through customer service to registered owners of CorelWEB.DESIGNER. The suite will require a minimum of 8 MB of RAM, an IBM compatible PC 486 33, Windows 3.1x, Windows NT or Windows 95, a CD-ROM drive and a VGA display.

Corel Corporation

Incorporated in 1985, Corel Corporation is recognized internationally as an award-winning developer and marketer of productivity applications, graphics and multimedia software. Corel's product line includes CorelDRAWT, the Corel WordPerfectr Suite, Corel Office Professional, CorelVIDEOT and over 30 multimedia software titles. Corel's products run on most operating systems, including: Windows, Macintosh, UNIX, MS-DOS and OS/2 and are consistently rated among the strongest in the industry. The company ships its products in over 17 languages through a network of more than 160 distributors in 70 countries worldwide. Corel is traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange (symbol: COS) and the NASDAQ - National Market System (symbol: COSFF). For more information visit Corel's home page on the Internet at <http://www.corel.com>.

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Kids Computing Corner
Frank Sereno, Editor

The Kids' Computing Corner
Computer news and software reviews
from a parent's point of view

In the News

MB Software Corporation Releases K.I.D.

K.I.D. is the Kid Identity Defense Program. This is a service of MB Software that will disseminate important information about your child to hundreds of agencies in a matter of minutes during an emergency. For a subscription fee of \$23.95 per child, K.I.D. will maintain your child's image, thumbprints and medical history in its database. The service also provides subscribers with two photo ID's and 20 personalized identification labels. You can also update your child's records. For more information, call 817-633-9400.

7th Level Announces New Titles

Following the success of their first two children's titles, TuneLand and The Great Word Adventure, the irrepressible Howie Mandel and 7th Level have combined forces to create The Great Math Adventure and The Great Reading Adventure. Both titles will feature quality animation, songs and fun activities that promote the learning of reading and math skills. The Great Math Adventure is currently scheduled for a September release while The Great Reading Adventure is due in November.

The Learning Company Announces New Titles

Several new products will soon be available from The Learning Company. The first is already available, The Interactive Math Journey. Retailing for about \$75, the program features twenty-five sequenced activities using a 3-step approach to build math understanding and skills in children ages 5 to 9.

Coming this fall will be a sequel to the most successful reading program of 1995. Reader Rabbit's Interactive Reading Journey 2 will build upon the skills learned in the original program. For children ages 5 to 8, the program features 30 original storybooks. The program promotes reading comprehension through sixty thought-provoking questions. It also includes a record-and-playback feature so children and parents can listen to the child's progress. Suggested retail price is \$99.

The Learning Company also released several new language software programs. A new series, Practice Makes Perfect T features versions in Spanish, French and German. Each features more than 2,300 words ranging from fundamental to advanced. The programs use photos to illustrate words, videos and diagrams to teach proper tongue and lip to form sounds, and interactive exercises to promote memorization. The Windows version features speech-recognition technology to improve the user's language skills.

The company has also upgraded its Berlitz Think & TalkT line. This product immerses the user into a language to make learning more natural. The updated versions include the new speech recognition technology (Windows only) along with a record-and-playback feature that allows users to recognize their mistakes. Available for Spanish, French, German and Italian, each program has a suggested retail price of \$119.

All products are available for Windows 3.1, Windows 95 and Macintosh.

Inverse Ink and DC Comics Announce Four CD-ROM Comic Books

At the recent San Diego Comic Book Expo, Inverse Ink and DC Comics previewed the upcoming electronic comic books that feature four beloved characters. Each comic will come on a single CD-ROM featuring a hybrid Windows/Macintosh format at an expected retail price of \$9.99. These titles will be available this summer.

Superman: The Mysterious Mr. Mist features Superman in a battle against a strange, subterranean creature that can take on human form. The creature

seeks a new Queen for his people. Could he be interested in Lois Lane? Can Superman save the day?

Batman: Partners in Peril features Batman and Robin teaming up with Batgirl to save Gotham City from the Penguin, the Riddle, the Joker and Catwoman. Can the Dynamic Duo Plus One, a menage a trois of crimefighters, save the city?

Aquaman: War of the Water Worlds is the story of Aquaman and Aqualad's battle against alien invaders fighting for control of the world's seas. Alien sea serpents of gargantuan proportions threaten to capture all of Aquaman's allies. Can he defeat Slant and his evil horde?

Superboy: Spies from Outer Space contains the tale of Superboy and his dog, Krypto, as they investigate two aliens from another world who terrorize the planet with their horrible powers. Can Superboy prevail?

To learn the answers to all these questions, you'll just have to buy the CD-ROM's. Each comic book panel will have hidden hotspots that will trigger animations. Many animations will come directly from the 1960s cartoon classics. The products will also have an autoplay feature so users can just sit back and enjoy the show. Inverse Ink will also be producing four titles based on series in the Fox Kids' Network and it hopes to have twelve titles out before Christmas.

Ubi Soft Announces New Children's Title

Coming next month, Numbers and Letters with Rayman will teach children reading, counting and spelling as he attempts to rescue the Magic Book of Knowledge from the evil Mr. Dark. Players will play the familiar Rayman game of platform action-adventure, but now they must answer Knowledge Challenges along the way to complete a map to find Mr. Dark's fortress of evil.

The game has three levels based for first, second and third graders. Each adventure features twelve Knowledge Challenges that will average nearly 600 questions for a completed game. Each adventure also has three levels to allow for different skill levels and to allow the game to be continually challenging. Gameplay and challenge questions become increasingly more difficult as the player advances in the game.

Numbers and Letters with Rayman will retail for \$39.95 and be available for IBM computers. Look for a review of the original Rayman here in this column next week.

Beauty and the Beast
Windows CD-ROM
MSRP \$14.95
for Ages 6 to Adult
N-TK
18000 Studebaker Rd
Suite 200
Cerritos, CA 90703
310-403-0043

Program Requirements

OS: Windows 3.1
CPU: 486/33
HD Space: 1 MB

Memory: 8 MB
Graphics: 16-bit VGA (64,000 colors)
CD-ROM: Double-speed
Audio: 16-bit sound card
Other: mouse

reviewed by David Mann

Beauty and the Beast is just one of a series of Interactive Storybooks developed by Memorex. It is a collection of illustrations, music, narration, and text set up in a book-like format that tells the classic tale in a way that feels like a storybook. In interactive mode, you actually turn the pages with a mouse, while you can turn the narration on or off. It has bookmarks so that you can return to the story where you stopped reading.

The story tells of Beauty's father, his rise and fall in business, and how he stumbles onto the Beast property during his travels. It explains the background of how and why Beauty's father and the beast make the pact. The story also explains the selfishness of Beauty's sisters, and of her own virtue and kindheartedness. It tells the Beast's sad and wonderful story and why only a person like Beauty could have saved him.

The program has some pretty steep requirements (though I can't for the life of me figure out why). It needs 64,000 colors though I never counted more than 16. The requirements list a 16-bit sound card but it played acceptably on an 8-bit SB PRO sound card. You should have the latest video drivers for Windows. The list also suggests that you have a Pentium processor for better performance but it ran just fine on my 486 DX2-66.

Technical issues aside, it has good music, a video (self-telling) mode, and a puzzle mode (something else to do when you're not reading or listening to the story, kinda fun!). It also features non-frightening illustrations that are great for small children. It's a wonderful story that covers virtue, morality, selfishness, greed, hope, honor, and most importantly to not judge a book by its cover. The old stories may have their pitfalls, but the humanity in the stories is refreshing. In other words, it's a good program and the price is right.

Microsoft Bookshelf 1996-97 Edition
Available separately for Windows and Macintosh on CD-ROM
approximately \$55
for ages 10 and up
Microsoft Corporation
One Microsoft Way
Richmond, WA 98052
206-882-8080
<http://www.microsoft.com>

Program Requirements

IBM	Macintosh
OS: Windows 3.1, Windows 95	OS: System 7 or later
CPU: 486SX/33	CPU: Mac LC II or
higher	
HD Space: 4.5 MB	HD Space: 4 MB
Memory: 4 MB	Memory: 4 MB
Graphics: 640 by 480 with 256 colors	Graphics:
256 colors, 13" monitor	
CD-ROM: Double-speed	CD-ROM: Double-speed

Audio: 8-bit Windows compatible sound card
Other: mouse, printer optional Other: printer
optional

reviewed by Frank Sereno

Microsoft Bookshelf has been one of the favorite reference works for computer users for ten years. It contains a handy dictionary, thesaurus, encyclopedia and more. More multimedia material has been added to make this year's Bookshelf even more interesting. This year's edition has been updated to increase its usefulness to students, hobbyists and professionals.

It can be seamlessly integrated into any Windows program through the use of QuickShelf, a companion program that conveniently places Bookshelf icons on the screen. It also includes the Bookshelf Internet Directory 96 that contains more than 5,000 interesting sites on the Internet. When used with a compatible Internet browser, the listings can be used as links to go directly to those sites. Free updates for the listings are available from Microsoft's Website.

Another new feature is the Concise Encarta 96 World Atlas. 54 maps (that can be cut and pasted into other documents) allow the user to travel the globe. Location names are pronounced and brief histories are included. The program includes links to other portions of Bookshelf for more detailed information.

Updated Year in Review provides a multimedia montage of the events of 1995. This section includes an interesting array of the events and people that were prominent in the year past in a fascinating and entertaining way.

Bookshelf still includes the fine reference works from past editions including The American Heritage Dictionary, The Concise Columbia Encyclopedia, The Original Roget's Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases, The World Almanac and Book of Facts 1996, The Columbia Dictionary of Quotations, The People's Chronology and National Five-Digit ZIP Code and Post Office Directory. These references are integrated for ease of use with links provided via keywords. You can look up a word in the dictionary and then jump to the thesaurus for a synonym. All text and images can be copied to the Windows clipboard for use in other applications. New multimedia presentations will increase learning comprehension and enjoyment of the program.

Microsoft Bookshelf 1996-97 is a great collection of tools and resources for students, writers, professionals and those who love to learn. This is a fabulous program that becomes richer, more educational and more entertaining with each edition. It's backed by Microsoft's 30-day moneyback guarantee. If you are only going to have one reference program for your computer, Microsoft Bookshelf has to be that one.

JFK THE MAN AND HIS HISTORY
Windows CD-ROM
MSRP \$9.95
for Ages 8 to Adult
Essex Interactive Media
P. O Box 937
Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632-0937
201-894-8700

Program Requirements
OS: Windows 3.1
CPU: 486DX/33
HD Space: 0 MB
Memory: 4 MB
Graphics: VGA with hardware or software MPEG
CD-ROM: Double-speed
Audio: 8-bit sound card
Other: mouse

reviewed by David Mann

If you're looking for reference material, Essex Interactive Media has just the ticket in *JFK: The Man And His History*. It is over an hour of narrated MPEG-compliant video (sorry no AVIs here), on the Kennedy family, JFK himself, his exploits, his life, and his assassination.

The movie starts with background on the Kennedy family. Included are Joe Kennedy's (John's father) political ambitions and accusations of bootlegging during prohibition. John's mother, brothers, sisters, and cousins are covered not only in movie reels, but also in some rare home movies. It shows the closeness of the family in ways that cannot be described in print. The movie shows a timeline of JFK's school days, his bout with Polio, his military service, his senatorial rise, his ascension to president, and his assassination. It covers some of the day-to-day chores of the presidency. It also details how he came to and the reasons behind some of his history making decisions. It also covers the rumors of his infidelity with Marilyn Monroe. The movie concludes with some of the events leading up to, including, and after JFK's assassination.

JFK The Man And His History is an unbiased biography of one of Americas most charismatic presidents. It shows the good and the bad of the man himself, his family, and his decisions, uncolored. It deals with speculation as what it is and allows the viewer to draw their own conclusions. The movie also shows the humanity of a man and his family, with well cut, interspersed black and white and color footage of historical and family films. The narration is excellent. I do recommend this movie to anyone wanting an overview of John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp
Windows CD-ROM
\$14.95
for ages 4 and up
N-TK
18000 Studebaker Rd
Suite 200
Cerritos, CA 90703
310-403-0043

Program Requirements
OS: Windows 3.1
CPU: 486 or greater
HD Space: 1 MB
Memory: 8 MB
Graphics: 16-bit VGA (64,000 colors)
CD-ROM: Double-speed

Audio: 16-bit sound card
Other: mouse

reviewed by Frank Sereno

Can you remember back to when you sat in your mother or father's lap to read stories together? Perhaps you went to story-reading sessions at your local library or saw a show on television where a skilled narrator breathed life into the written word. *Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp* hearkens back to those days of wonder and joy.

Aladdin is an interactive storybook from the studios of Jones Multimedia. The narration is performed ably by Dr. Judith K. Jones. Her reading will grab your child's attention. She also provided the numerous color illustrations for this classic tale. If your child is familiar with the Disney version of *Aladdin*, he may be a bit surprised to learn of the many plot twists and turns of the original story. This tale of love, evil and redemption is fascinating and educational.

You can operate the program in two methods. You can run it as a virtual storybook in which you turn pages in the book. Each page features displayed text and an AVI animation complete with audio. The other option is to run it in movie mode that displays the pages in succession without need for user intervention. A few pages ask the user to make a choice to propel the story. In movie mode, the story takes about a half hour.

The images are very colorful, but not finely detailed. The publisher claims these images are similar to those of nineteenth century children's books. I believe most children will enjoy them. The sound portion of the program is superb with an excellent narration, an intriguing musical score and many fascinating sound effects. Although the program's requirements include a Sound Blaster 16 or compatible, the audio played well through my 8-bit SB Pro audio card.

From my point of view, this is not an educational program but it does have some educational benefits. This program should definitely interest children in reading. It also has highlighted words on pages which link to definitions of these words. This is a nice feature, but the program does not read the definitions aloud for the child. The program is very entertaining and I believe children will play it many times before they tire of it. *Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp* is budget-priced and an excellent value. This entertaining title would be a good addition to any child's software library.

James Discovers Math
Separate CD-ROM versions for Windows and Macintosh
approximately \$30
for ages 3 to 6
Broderbund
500 Redwood Blvd.
Novato, CA 94948-6121
415-382-4740
<http://www.broder.com>

Program Requirements

IBM	Macintosh
OS: Windows 3.1, Windows 95	OS: System 7.0.1
CPU: 386DX/33	CPU: 68030/25
HD Space: 4 MB	HD Space: 1

MB
Memory: 4 MB Memory: 4 MB
Graphics: 640 by 480 with 256 colors Graphics:
256 colors, 13" monitor
CD-ROM: Double-speed CD-ROM: Double-speed
Audio: 8-bit Windows compatible sound card
Other: mouse, printer optional Other: mouse,
printer optional

reviewed by Frank Sereno

Broderbund has another winning edutainment program in James Discovers Math. This intriguing title was developed by Brains, an Australian design company. The parents of the real James are the heads of the firm. The computerized James is an engaging young Australian boy who hosts this program and he will soon become your child's friend. The program features many fun activities that are highlighted by wonderful music.

The main interface for James is his home's kitchen. Your child can gain access to the activities by clicking on objects in the room. Clicking on James' book starts a small interactive story called James Makes a Salad. The clock serves as the gateway to lessons on telling time in Clock Game. The television is the portal to multimedia nursery rhymes in Number Sing-Along. Choose a rhyme by clicking on a number. For example, the number three starts the rhyme "Baa, Baa Black Sheep." The magnets on the refrigerator door beget Picture Shapes, a fun game involving the placement of colored geometric shapes on a picture. Your child can play Boat Shapes by clicking on the toy boat. He can learn about shapes by clicking on them or he can play a game of loading shapes onto boats. Other activities include the Face Game, Measurement, Fruit Shop, Blocks and Magic Carpet.

The Face Game has two modes. In the free play mode, children create interesting faces by using a multitude of parts. In directed play, they will learn the difference between small, medium and large when the program directs them to get specific facial parts. Measurement teaches children about estimation and measurement by asking them to measure objects with pencils of varying lengths. Learning counting, number recognition and filling orders is the object of the Fruit Shop. Blocks is where children can learn to solve simple addition and subtraction problems by solving problems on the blackboard by dragging items onto the desk to represent the equation. The final exercise is Magic Carpet that encourages children to recognize and develop patterns based on geometric shapes and colors.

The graphics are very childlike. They are crudely drawn, much like a young child would do, and this adds to the program's charm and appeal. The characters are finely animated and the scenes are full of bright colors. The sounds of *James Discovers Math* are top-notch. The spoken dialog is performed well. Bouncy, adorable music that will please adults as well as children fills the program.

The activities are fun. Many activities feature two levels and several offer the option of printing your child's creations within that activity. This program will keep your child coming back for more. The educational opportunities are fantastic with activities promoting the learning of basic addition and subtraction, counting, number recognition, recognizing geometric shapes and colors, measurement and telling time. The user manual includes many suggestions to enhance the program's lessons. This adds to the program's value. The interface is simple yet complete. It encourages

exploration but it also provides spoken help when needed.

James Discovers Math is a well-designed delight for child and parent. It offers a modest price back by an incredible 90-Day guarantee. If you are seeking a math program for a preschool child, you should give James Discovers Math serious consideration. It's a winner!

Ratings

Graphics	9.0
Sound	10.0
Interface	9.0
Play Value	9.5
Educational Value	9.5
Bang for the Buck	9.5
Average	9.41

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Atari: Jaguar/Computer Section
Dana Jacobson, Editor

From the Atari Editor's Desk "Saying it like it is!"

R.I.P. Atari?

It's official. No wake, no eulogies, no funeral, no reflections of what was or could have been. The stockholders met, at least a few of them, and made the JTS/Atari merger official this past Wednesday. The announcement to follow the merger can be found below - no frills, just an official-like business decision. For all intents and purposes...it's the end. What can be said that hasn't been said many times over the past 10+ years? Not much, really. Even the ATC symbol on the American Stock Exchange is gone, replaced by JTS. Surprisingly, I thought that I'd have more to say about this scenario, but I find myself hard-pressed to find the words to reflect my feelings about this. Perhaps I'll find a few to relate before this issue has been completed. Regardless, it's been a wild ride.

Until next time...

The Merger STR Infofile

Atari Merges With JTS Corporation!

7/31/96

CONTACT: W. Virginia Walker,
Chief Financial Officer of JTS Corporation,
408-468-1800/ (JTS)

SAN JOSE, Calif., July 31 /PRNewswire/ -- JTS Corporation (ASE: JTS) and Atari Corporation (formerly American Stock Exchange: ATC) announced today that they each received stockholder approval of their proposal to merge the two companies. JTS and Atari have filed Certificates of Merger with authorities in Delaware and Nevada and the merger closed today. JTS Corporation will be the surviving entity in the merger, and the combined organization will be based in San Jose, California. The JTS Common Stock will commence trading on the American Stock Exchange under the symbol "JTS"

on July 31, 1996. The Atari Common Stock was delisted from the American Stock Exchange following trading on July 30, 1996.

Upon closing of the merger, each outstanding share of Atari Common Stock was exchanged for one share of JTS Common Stock. JTS exchanged approximately 63,850,000 shares of its Common Stock for all of the outstanding stock of Atari and JTS has 103,415,517 million shares outstanding following the merger. The merger is intended to qualify as a tax-free reorganization for Federal Income Tax purposes.

"This merger is another step toward our goal of becoming a leading international supplier of hard disk drives in the rapidly growing hard disk drive market," said David T. Mitchell, Chief Executive Officer and President of JTS. JTS designs, develops, manufacturers and markets hard disk drives for use in notebook computers and desktop personal computers. The Company recently introduced its new 3-inch Nordic product for notebook computers.

"We are pleased to be a part of JTS Corporation, the disk drive market is growing rapidly and we continue to be excited about the prospects of the 3-inch Nordic disk drive," said Jack Tramiel, former Chairman of Atari.

JTS is headquartered in San Jose, California and has its disk drive manufacturing facility in Madras, India. JTS' Atari Division licenses and markets software in the multi-platform, multimedia market. JTS employs 4300 people worldwide.

JTS Trades STR Focus

AMEX TRADES COMMON STOCK OF JTS CORPORATION

NEW YORK, July 31 /PRNewswire/ -- The American Stock Exchange today began trading the common shares of JTS Corporation. Under a recent agreement, the privately held company merged with Atari Corporation, an AMEX-listed company, and will conduct all business operations under the name JTS Corporation.

JTS Corporation based in San Jose, California, designs, manufactures and markets hard disk drives for personal computers. The company has developed two families of hard disk drives: the 3-inch form factor Nordic product family for notebook computers and the 3.5-inch form factor Palladium product family for desk-top personal computers. JTS is currently developing a 5.25-inch form factor disk drive for desktop personal computers. Trading under the ticker symbol JTS, the stock opened at 5 5/16 on 1,300 shares. AGS Specialists Partners is the specialist unit for the company. As the nation's second largest stock exchange, the American Stock Exchange is the only primary marketplace for both stocks and derivative securities.

Visit American Stock Exchange web site located at <http://www.amex.com>

Another Heroic Attempt STR Infofile

ATARI COMPUTING MAGAZINE

From: mike <mike@coconut.demon.co.uk>

Press release

Mike Kerslake, a magazine publisher with over fifteen years experience has signed up Frank Charlton, ex-features editor for ST Format and Joe Connor,

ex-Reader Disk/Public Arena editor for Atari World as joint editors for a NEW printed Atari magazine called Atari Computing.

The launch issue of Atari Computing will feature sixty A4 pages crammed with quality editorial. We're delighted to welcome contributions from respected and well known journalists including Graeme Rutt, Jon Ellis, Denesh Bhabuta and Kev Beardsworth. We're delighted to announce we've signed a deal with the two leading disk based magazines, AtariPhile and Maggie to publish regular sections within the magazine. If you've never seen a disk magazine before we think you'll be amazed to find out what you've been missing!

The launch issue will be on sale at the forthcoming Atari shows so why not attend and meet us? The shows will be held on Saturday, September 28th in Birmingham and Sunday, September 29th in London, for more details about the shows contact: Goodman International, Telephone: +44 (0)1782 335650.

Issue one preview

Issue one is still in the planning stage but here's just some of the articles we're working on:

- News and gossip put together by Graeme Rutt and Frank Charlton including details about the Atari Computing website.
- Software reviews including HD-Driver by Jon Ellis
- Hardware reviews including Nemesis DIY by Simon Coward
- PD/Shareware reviews of MagiC utilities including Start Me Up! and Stewart
- Preview of MagiC v5 by Thomas Binder, Kandinsky v2.5 by Kev Beardsworth and Stella by Joe Connor
- Music and MIDI primer
- User group reports co-ordinated by Al Goold including feature on Spanish Atarians by Andrew Harvey
- Atari Jaguar coverage

Remember these are a sample, not a complete list!

Background

Following the closure of Atari World earlier this year it has just been announced ST Format, the final UK newsstand publication, has also closed. It's the end of an era in the UK which for the first time since 1987 has no Atari newsstand presence. The men in grey suits are telling us to move onto other platforms but hang on a minute, let's take stock of the situation...

- Atari machines can be purchased and repaired on a shoestring
- Atari machines can produce superb printed output
- Atari machines can surf the Internet and run BBSs
- Atari machines can form the nucleus of a digital music studio
- New software of better quality than ever before is still being released!

That doesn't sound like a dead platform! The Atari platform has been emulated by just about every other platform, we're owners of cult machines! Have you ever noticed ex-Atarians animatedly talking about the 'Good old days' it's a feel good factor missing from all the current machines.

We don't need a new platform but we do need information and a printed magazine is undoubtedly the best way to ensure we see in the new millennium! Apart from a darn good read the other thing most of us like is some new software to play with. The Reader Disk concept offers all readers the chance

to get their hands on the hottest new software around along with exclusive versions not available anywhere else. We intend to offer one Reader Disk to accompany each issue, buy it or not, the choice is yours! What we need, now more than ever before, is your support. It's going to be tough to keep going so we're initially planning bi-monthly releases - but this could change, it's really up to you! Instead of wishing us luck post a cheque to reserve your copy today!

Ordering

As we're sure you'll appreciate launching a new magazine is a risky business requiring pinpoint budget management. Our print run will be conservative and we don't expect to have a stock of back issues. We're not a newsstand publication so don't bother looking in the shops. The Atari platform needs this magazine and we need your subscription so do yourself and us a favor, take out a subscription or order an evaluation copy today!

Fast feedback request

If you're on-line we'd like to hear from you right now! We're keen to get an idea of demand for the mag. To reserve copies send an empty email with the title line: KEEP and if you'd like two copies simply add the number afterwards: KEEP 2 etc, thanks for taking part!

mail: atari_w_admin@cix.compulink.co.uk

Subscriptions

Many of you (and most of us) lost money following the Atari World debacle and we're determined not to make the same mistake. Atari Computing subscriptions are refundable at any time. Cancel your subscription in writing and we'll return any outstanding credit to you, minus a deduction to cover our costs. If you order an evaluation copy we won't cash your payment until we've printed the magazine, simple eh?

United Kingdom

Send cheque/PO made payable to the 'Atari Computing Group' to:

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Email: mkerslake@cix.compulink.co.uk

Initially we're offering a single evaluation copy or three issue subscriptions at the following rates inclusive of post and packing:

Evaluation Copy	UK	EUROPE	USA
Magazine only	3.00	3.50	4.00
With Reader Disk	5.00	5.50	6.00

Subscription	UK	EUROPE	USA
Magazine only	9.00	11.50	12.00
With Reader Disk	15.00	17.50	18.00

Payments for European and USA subscriptions must be made in a form acceptable to us, such as cheques drawn on a UK bank or UK cash in a registered letter. We will be looking at other ways of payment to make things easier in the future. If you want to order a magazine and none of the above rates apply to you, just email us and we will give you a price. Atari Computing will also be available directly from authorised User groups and other outlets around

the world:

Germany

Thorsten Butschke

Email: Thorsten_Butschke@s.maus.de (No emails >16K please)

Other

We're expecting to be able to announce local support for Scandinavia, Australia and North America RSN!...

Advertisers

We have a limited number of pages set aside each issue. These are realistically priced to attract everyone in the Atari marketplace. To discuss your requirements please contact Mike Kerslake at the address above.

Submissions

We're always on the lookout for talented new contributors so if you've got an idea for an article please do get in touch.

Who are we?

Atari Computing is financed by the Atari Computing Group, based on CIX, and dedicated to supporting the Atari platform. Membership of the group is by invitation only. We're looking forward to Issue 1 as much as you are!

Regards

The Atari Computing Group (ACG)

Delphi Online STR Spotlight

Delphi Announces No SprintNet Surcharges!

Great News!

As of August 1, 1996 (Thursday), I am pleased to announce that there will be no hourly surcharge rates on SprintNet calls in to Delphi! You can use Delphi during working hours and see no surcharges on your accounts! If you're not currently using SprintNet for access, type GO USING ACCESS for information on their local access numbers near you.

We've been listening closely to your comments, wishes, and criticisms - and elimination of daytime surcharges has been one of the top issues. At this point we've been able to renegotiate our contract with Sprint only, and not MCI for the Tymnet service. In the next few weeks you'll see further announcements concerning Delphi's service, including higher modem speeds and expanded IP access.

The changes keep coming here at Delphi!

Sincerely,

Dan Bruns, CEO (DAN)

Antic BACK? STR Focus

Antic Magazine On the Web!

I am happy to announce the launch of the Digital Antic Project. Antic magazine was the premiere magazine devoted to 8-bit Atari computers. Antic, like the 8-bit Atari, has been forgotten by all but a small minority... The Digital Antic Project is a small crusade to put all of the old issues of Antic (and eventually its sister magazine, STart) on the Internet. I have received permission from the publisher of Antic to make the material available on the Internet for free.

The site currently features the complete text of the first two issues, as well as cover art and memorable ads from the magazine. More material will be added as time permits -- faster if YOU volunteer to help by scanning, HTMLizing, or proofreading. The site is at
<http://www.northcoast.com/savetz/antic/dap.html> Your comments, suggestions and help are welcome!

Current contents of the site include:

----- April 1982 - Vol.1 No. 1

1. Products in Depth - A survey of three word processors
2. Starting Line - Glossary for the novice
3. Systems Guide - Memory Map, part one
4. Pilot - Pilot your Atari
5. Tape Topics - Some help for cassette owners
6. In the Public Domain - Chicken
7. Forth Factory - Multi-tasking in Forth
8. Assembly Language - A keyboard mask
9. Editorial
10. Software Reviews
11. Useful Tricks - Assembler-editor cartridge
12. Looking at Books
13. Kids Korner
14. GTIA
15. What's in a Name? ANTIC and Atari
16. User Notes - how to tell if you have a GTIA chip

June 1982 - Vol.1 No. 2

1. Modems
2. Dialing For Data
3. Communications Software
4. Assembly Language - Move-it
5. Starting Line - Screen Editing
6. 'Tari Talkers - Speech Synthesis Comparison
7. Tricks of the Trade - Game Program Techniques
8. Pilot Your Atari - Large Text
9. In the Public Domain - Death Star
10. Systems Guide - Memory Map
11. Pascal - A First Look
12. GTIA
13. Forth Factory
14. I/O Board
15. Inside Atari
16. When the Chips are Down

17. New Products
18. Looking At Books
19. Kids Korner

Cheers,
Kevin Savetz
savetz@northcoast.com

Jaguar Section

RSN No Longer...

From the Editor's Controller - Playin' it like it is!

As of now, Atari Corporation only exists as a silent entity/division of JTS Corporation, and a name in the history books. All that's left is to reflect - you can be sure that we'll be doing just that in the weeks to come.

Officially (and I take that with a huge grain of salt!), 135,000 Jaguars were sold, according to the last shareholders report with Atari's name attached to it. 135,000!!?? What's worse about this figure is you just know that that number is "padded" - this figure doesn't truly reflect the number of Jaguars SOLD to customers. 135,000!!?? I'm sorry, but this number is just so low, it's downright outrageous. We're talking about a system that's been available for almost 3 years! It's no wonder that Atari has pulled the plug. I'm sure that there will be a lot of commentary regarding this end of an era in forthcoming issues. For now, we'll let the finality of this event take hold in your mind.

Until next time...

Industry News STR Game Console NewsFile - The Latest Gaming News!

Gamers Mpath, Catapult Merge

Two major online multiplayer gaming companies -- Mpath Interactive and Catapult Entertainment Inc. -- have agreed to merge. Reporting from Cupertino, California, the Reuter News Service says the combined company, to be called Mpath Interactive, will operate two multiplayer game services:

- MPath's World Wide Web-based game service for PCs. Catapult's XBAND multiplayer game service for game consoles.
- Mpath President/CEO Paul Matteucci told the wire service the merger combines Catapult's expertise in client and user interface technology with Mpath's server infrastructure, adding, "Games fans on Mplayer will benefit from the best-trained and most experienced customer support operation in the online multiplayer gaming industry."

Reuters says Mpath has focused on the North American market, while Catapult markets XBAND in a variety of countries, including Brazil and Japan, where

it has a strategic partnership with Nissho Iwai, the world's sixth-largest trading company. On this, Catapult President/CEO Adam Grosser said, "The powerhouse company we are creating will set the agenda for the online game industry."

Founded in 1995, Mpath's major investors include Institutional Venture Partners, Accel Partners, Sutter Hill Ventures and SegaSoft Inc., a unit of Sega of America. The XBAND Video Game Network, in operation since November 1994, is the only online gaming service for the Sega Genesis and Nintendo Lt's Super Nintendo platforms.

ONLINE WEEKLY STReport OnLine

The wires are a hummin'!

PEOPLE... ARE TALKING

On CompuServe

compiled by
Joe Mirando
CIS ID: 73637,2262

Hidi ho folks. Jeez, it's funny how time flies when you're on vacation! It seems like only yesterday that I began leisurely relaxing at home. And now, a staggering two weeks later, I have to get ready to go back to work. It's too bad that my daddy doesn't own a business so that I could just take a vacation whenever I wanted... or make life miserable for anyone I came into contact with while I was at work. Then I wouldn't need a vacation!

At any rate, the way I've been seeing participation in the Atari areas of Online Services slip away, I wonder if anything can prolong the type of support necessary to simply continue using these, our favorite machines. True, new operating systems such as MagiC and MagicMac and emulators such as GEMulator could keep some interested in supporting this platform, but why not just supply programs and accessories for the parent platforms?

The bottom line is that, if you don't have it now, you're not likely to get it. I guess that the best we can hope for is that our machines last a good long time (one of the trademarks of the ST series). Until my machine does break down, I've got all the software I need, a decent operating system that I don't have to worry about becoming obsolete (because that happened quite a while ago), and lots of good friends and neighbors which I've accumulated over the years at computer shows and through online services. Okay, okay, let's get on with the reason for this column, all the news, hints, tips, and info available every week right here on CompuServe...

From the Atari Computing Forums

On the subject of CompuServe not offering SLIP Internet access, Woody Windischman posts:

"I don't know that CIS will offer slip access *to* the Internet, but I know you can access CIS *through* the Internet. All you need is any kind of TCP access through any provider. Therefore, if you have a local independent

provider and a "flat rate" account, you can simply telnet directly into compuserve.com, log in, and access the normal ASCII/HMI parts of the service.

In fact, Windows versions of CIM 2.0 and above do just that by default. When you invoke a connection, an "internet dialer" is launched, which establishes a PPP connection (through the CompuServe network). CIM then establishes its own TCP/IP link to CompuServe over that PPP connection!

The point is, that CIM doesn't care where the TCP/IP Internet link comes from - CompuServe's dialer, Netcom, or your LAN's connection through a T1. If an Atari system has an Internet connection, you can get Telnet access to CIS right now. If the author of an Atari-based CIS navigator were to change the Communications side from serial to TCP/IP Network, the same user and service access protocols should apply."

When Carl Barron tells us that he cannot get Oasis205, the Atari Web Browser, to access CompuServe, Neil Newman asks him:

"Did you get the series of 'bad packet' errors in your log file ?"

Carl tells him:

"I get NOTHING... just CONNECT XXXXX from the modem. NO communication in either direction after that. Connect and sit there. [I] Did not look at log files, should still be there as I did not erase anything from oasis folders.... Will check when I return to my TT..."

Des Mercer asks:

"Could anyone tell me more about emulators, and in particular some form of making TOS compatible with DOS ? My sister has an Atari 1040 ste 1 megabyte computer that she uses for music, but has no printer. I have a sx/33 olivetti computer and printer with DOS/Windows . Is there a way of converting one operating system to be understood by the other, and vice versa?"

David James asks Des:

"Could you be a bit more specific with what you want to achieve when you say converting one operating system to another. You should be able to use your Printer on your sister's STE without any problems and also transfer files via Double Density disks without too many problems. However if you want to run the same programs on each machine you won't be able to, or at least not very easily or very fast."

Des tells David:

"Please bear with me, if I talk a load of nonsense its because this is all new to me. I have been told that a Midi file is very much like a programming language itself and that its 'universal' to all operating systems. A Midi file is not an audio file, but rather a set of instructions or commands, so I could take a disk and have it performed using whatever software is on my machine, and someone else could do the same but because there software is different it might sound different. What's more and to the point, rather than perform the piece it can also 'write' the notation.

So rather than take my printer over to my sister, the idea was for me to take a floppy and have it printed out. The problem seems to be right at the start, in as much as my computer which IBM compatible does not recognize the formatting from the Atari 1040 STE computer, and vice versa."

David tells Des:

"You should find that provided you are using Double density disks then a disk formatted by the Atari desktop can be read on the PC. if this doesn't work I've always understood that provide The PC formats a DD disk as 9 sectors 80 tracks which can be done by using the command FORMAT A: /F:720 then you should be ok. If this doesn't work try FORMAT A: /N:9 /T:80"

Robert Aries jumps in and tells Des:

"If you're simply talking about using your computer's printer to print your sister's music notation, you may not need an emulator. Her music scoring program may be able to export a file in a format readable by your computer. I get a TIFF file from my Atari, and use my Mac to print it. If you format a double density floppy in your computer, your sister will be able to use it with her Atari to save files on it, which you can then load in to a program on your computer to print out (if it handles the file format, of course)."

Des tells Robert:

"I'm not to sure what a 'TIFF' file is. Could you explain ? I am using an Olivetti SX/33 Computer using DOS and running Windows, (not 95). The main problem at the moment seems to be that I can't get over the first hurdle of 'formatting'. If I buy any floppy discs, most of them come pre-formatted, compatible to IBM, which my machine uses and is o.k. with. If my sister has a new floppy disc, she has to first format it before she can use it. I have been trying to import a midi file from one of her discs, but because (or so it would seem) my system does not recognize her formatting, all I get is an error message saying unable to read drive A."

Sysop Bob Retelle, one of the few true luminaries in the Atari world, tells Des:

"The Atari ST computer and the IBM PC actually do share almost the exact same floppy disk format... unfortunately, some of the early Atari ST computers don't format their disks in a completely compatible way. The secret to being able to read the same disk in both computers is to format the floppy ON THE PC and as a LOW DENSITY disk. The best plan would be to take one of your sister's disks and format it on your PC. If you're using DOS, the command would be:

FORMAT A: /F:720

This will result in a floppy disk that both your computers can read and write. (The reason for using one of your sister's disks is that it is likely a low-density disk. The disks you buy for your PC are likely high-density disks which the Atari computer can't use.) Once you've formatted a disk like this on your PC, you can both write files on it and read them on the other computer. Just be sure your sister doesn't re-format the disk on the Atari."

Robert Aries tells Des:

"First of all, the reason you are having problems transferring disk files is because most pre-formatted disks are *high*-density (1.4 meg), while the Atari uses *double*-density--720K--(some early Atari systems were sold with *single* sided--360K--drives too!). Even if both of you use a double-density disk, one formatted on the Atari will not be readable on your computer because of some differences in the boot sector. As Bob R. told you, though,

if you use DOS to format a floppy as a double-density disk (or single-density if your sister has an older 360K drive), then the disk will be readable by BOTH computers, as the Atari CAN read a 360/720K DOS format. So, you will be able to move files between the two platforms. This will solve your midifile problem. Now for your original question:

>I'm not to sure what a 'TIFF' file is .Could you explain ?

"Tagged Interchange File Format", I think. A graphics format understood by most higher-end drawing and desktop publishing programs. Not specific to music notation, although some notation programs can export files in this format. One example of this would be if you were producing a book using a page-layout program and needed to include a snippet of musical notation. For example, the music notation program I use for the Atari (COPYIST, by Dr T software) has an option to export to a TIFF file, in addition to saving the file in its own native format and printing it directly with an included printer driver. The reason for using a TIFF file is that it is a "cross-platform" format, supported by graphics and page-layout programs on DOS, Windows & Mac computers.

Anyway, I was using TIFF as an example. What I mean is that you should have your sister check her program to see if she can save a file in one of these "exportable" formats. If so, you should then see if you have a graphics program on your computer that is compatible with this format. If all this IS the case, then you have a possibility of using your computer and printer to print your sister's files. All she need do is save them on a disk you've prepared with a DOS 360/720K format. Because this post isn't long enough <g>, I'll mention one other possibility: If your sister's notation program has an option to "print to disk", and she has a printer driver compatible with your printer, she can give you the resulting file (again, via the 360/720K DOS floppy method), and IF you have a utility program that can simply read the file and shoot it directly to the printer, you should be all set. Atari computers have this ability built-in to the OS, but I'm not sure about DOS/Windows computers. Be aware that these files tend to be much larger than TIFF or native file formats."

Dave Murray asks for help with sorting out which emulator is which:

"I have just come across mentions of hardware ST emulators. Does anyone know what the best one to choose would be and where I can find details about it ?"

Albert Dayes tells Dave:

"There is one called Gemulator and I believe there is another one. I have not used either of them to know how well they work. A few people in this forum have them and can give you some comments on how well they work."

P.Walding adds:

"There is the Gemulator and the Janus board. ASH are also working on a PC version of MagicMac for the PC. I think it must be close [to completion]. I guess it depends on what you are wanting to run it on. For the Mac , you only need MagicMac - it runs great on '040 and PPC Mac's. The Gemulator is a fair bit cheaper than the Gemulator , I believe. If the PC version of MagicMac is as good as the Ma version , that should suffice for most people. The only problem that may arise is the lack of ST ports if you use software only emulation. However for printers and modems it isn't a problem with any option. Midi is the main absence , from what I have read."

Steve Hayes asks for help:

"Sorry to do this to you all but I don't know where to turn I am in the UK. I am computer literate to a fair degree but not Atari-wise; my colleague has just acquired an Atari ST520 (vintage late 80s it seems) for his missus who is off to Uni. So they need simple shareware WP, Spreadsheet with stats functions, and probably a HDD. I've had a look around Compuserve and even downloaded a WP (Cscratch) and a format PC-Atari utility which does work (!) but cannot make the WP run. They have no money to speak of (pensioner in his case)."

I thought the machine should run off ROM if no disk inserted but it doesn't seem to. It will run off the UK language disk. Me or it?

1. Can you advise a simple WP?
2. ditto spreadsheet with some statistics functions and graphing?
3. Is there a BBS or Club scene (pref Cambridge area)?
4. Is there now an Atari mag (not found one in my newsagents)
5. Best way to get a small cheap repeat cheap Hard Disk (20M at a guess, don't know how greedy Atari is)
6. What do I need to check out to determine machine spec (OS version x.y ram amount etc)
7. What else I should do? ('run' is my answer but I owe them)"

Brian Scott tells Steve:

"There are plenty of specific Atari ST BBS's out there a good one is Adlib on 0191 3702659 , this is the one run by the Guy's of ST FORMAT the Atari Mag (Which unfortunatly, The last issue is out this month , should still be found in W.H. Smith's or other large retailer) here you will also find Public domain libary's like L.A.P.D. for any Hardware retailer. Try Adlib, they have a large collection of Programs and other software plus all the programs from ST FORMAT cover Disks."

Sysop Bob Retelle adds his thoughts:

"Your friends' Atari 520ST is a very early model of the Atari computer line. Originally it came with 512K of RAM, unless it has been upgraded by a hardware hack. (Unfortunately the Atari line wasn't made to be easily expandable by the end user.) One very important thing is that the Atari computers are based around the Motorola 68000 CPU chip, and thus are NOT compatible with any software for the IBM PC line of computers. We have some good software available here in our software libraries that they can probably use... one good word processor they might want to try is called STWRITER."

You can download Atari programs to your computer for them (I'm assuming you're using an IBM or IBM clone system..?), and give the programs to your friends on a floppy disk as long as you remember to format the disk in your PC as a LOW DENSITY 720K disk. (The Atari can NOT read a high density PC floppy disk.) You can even help them by uncompressing files and programs on your PC before putting them on the floppy disk. Atari programs often use the .ZIP compression method which is compatible with PKUNZIP on the PC, as well as the .LZH method which is compatible with LHA.EXE on the PC.

As for a hard disk drive, used ones are often seen for sale here in the Atari Forums on CompuServe, and on BBSs. It's possible to assemble one from parts too. The one special part needed is called an Atari SCSI Host Adapter, which is available from ICD, Inc for about \$100 US. The rest of the hard drive system is pretty standard, as you can use almost any regular SCSI

hard drive mechanism, and almost any case and power supply.

Your friends' ST can also use just about any standard EXTERNAL modem, with a standard 25 pin modem cable. We have several good telecommunications programs available here in our libraries which you could download for them, and there are still a few good commercially available telecom programs for sale by various vendors. You're right about the ST booting from ROM... unless...

The very, very, first few STs manufactured were rushed out on the market before the self-booting OS in ROM chips were ready. These had to be booted from a floppy disk, and unfortunately the operating system took up almost half of the available RAM, leaving very little for applications. If your friends' ST really won't boot without using a floppy, they will almost certainly have to have it upgraded by having the OS in ROM chips fitted."

Craig Ladewig posts:

"On the topic of IDE drives for the ST range of computers - I have been using a IDE adapter on my STe for the past 6 months - It only allows for IDE CD-ROM connection, and it only works with CD-ROM drives that are OS2 compatible. The adapter has a PC board that plugs into the cartridge port and another small PC board that plugs into the back of the CD-ROM drive. It was made by a German company called Gellermann & Fellmuth GbR. It uses ExtDos to access the drivers and all runs very well. Now a question to you - Will I be able to use a IDE cd rom drive on a Falcon?"

Albert Dayes of Atari Explorer Online Magazine tells Craig:

"I have not heard of any CD-ROM drivers for the IDE interface on the Falcon. Does the German company that made IDE for the STe have a suggestion on possible IDE drivers?"

Craig tells Albert:

"They claim that the interface will work on the Falcon as well, but I'd rather use the interface on my STe and use a new IDE drive on the Falcon that I will be receiving soon (If it doesn't get smashed in the post) I have the new version of SCSI Tools/ HuSHI ver 6.18 from Germany and it searches for IDE devices, so I'm not sure if it will recognize a IDE device connected as a slave on the Falcon. I really hope I will be able to use an IDE CD-ROM drive on the Falcon as SCSI CD-ROM drives cost R1200 (\$300) for a quad speed. So if you find out anything more drop me some mail. In the mean time I will have a look for an E-mail address for the author of the s/ware (Julian Reschke)

I currently have a 520STFm (1meg), 1040STe (4meg) -CD-ROM, 160meg h/d/ive that I've built into a tower case and the old faithful 800XL with d/drive etc. So as you can see I've been an ATARI nut for the last 11 years and have rather a large s/ware collection. And hopefully my Falcon will arrive in the next 2 weeks."

Albert replies to Craig:

"That is good to hear that the device will work with the FALCON030 for IDE CD-ROM drives. I wonder if the price of the device + the IDE CD-ROM drive is close to the same as a SCSI CD-ROM drive?? Some of my systems include 2600 (VCS), 7800, 800XL, 520ST, Mega4 ST, Missile Command (coin-op, the biggest of the group <grin>), and a Jaguar. If you have any shareware please upload it to the library so everyone can benefit from it. I guess 11 years worth

would take a long time to upload. <grin> But you can just upload your favorites."

Well folks, that's about it for this week. Tune in again next week, same time, same channel, an be ready to listen to my complaining about having to go back to work (like I'm the only one, right?) and always remember to listen to what they are saying when...

PEOPLE ARE TALKING

Special Notice!! STR Infofile
Articles

File format Requirements for

File Format for STReport

All articles submitted to STReport for publication must be sent in the following format. Please use the format requested. Any files received that do not conform will not be used. The article must be in an importable word processor format for Word 7.0.. The margins are .05" left and 1.0" Monospaced fonts are not to be used. Please use proportional fonting only and at eleven points.

- No Indenting on any paragraphs!! And. SPELLCHECK the darn thing!
- No Indenting of any lines or "special gimmickery"
- No underlining!
- Columns shall be achieved through the use of tabs only. Or, column format in Word 6-7 Do NOT use the space bar.
- No ASCII "ART"!!
- There is no limits as to size, articles may be split into two if lengthy
- Actual Artwork should be in GIF, PCX, JPG, TIF, BMP, WMF file formats
- Artwork (pictures, graphs, charts, etc.)should be sent along with the article separately
- Please use a single font only in an article. TTF CG Times 12pt. is preferred. (VERY Strong Hint)

If there are any questions please use either E-Mail or call. On another note. the ASCII version of STReport is fast approaching the "end of the line" As the major Online Services move away from ASCII.. So shall STReport. All in the name of progress and improved readability. The amount of reader mail expressing a preference for our Adobe PDF enhanced issue is running approximately 15 to 1 over the ASCII edition. Besides, STReport will not be caught in the old, worn out "downward compatibility dodge" we must move forward. However, if the ASCII readership remains as high, rest assured. ASCII will stay. Right now, since STReport is offered on a number of closed major corporate networks as "required" Monday Morning reading.. Our ascii readers have nothing to worry themselves about.

Many grateful thanks in advance for your enthusiastic co-operation and input.

Ralph F. Mariano, Editor
STReport International Online Magazine

"Reviewing is no easy matter. To begin with, you must be sure that writing is your vocation, next you must be convinced that reviewing is not writing, hence the conclusion that your vocation is not reviewing. Well, once you feel that way, you can start..."

...Doyle Helms

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